

# Public Libraries

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## General Reading for Men\*

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Men are not only members of the professions, business men, and officials, they are also human beings. To them, as such, we must offer that which refreshes and inspires as well as that which informs and instructs. Many a man who will not take a book will, nevertheless, attracted by headlines or illustrations, pick up a periodical for casual perusal. Most often these prefer something of political significance. *Collier's Weekly*, *The Commoner* or *Life* appeal to them. Some also read the *Saturday Evening Post* whose editorial page is as good as its fiction is bad.

Although there may no sex in literary taste, it is not safe in striving to serve men in the library to assume that they will like all the same light literature which women like. The practical man of affairs is less emotional and less imaginative than the women, and in a way is harder to please. To him "The Rosary," so long a "best seller," and so dear to the hearts of many women, seems to be nothing but a mass of saccharine sentimentality. He thinks no more of the later Barclay production, even though it seemed to have some serious and sanitary significance to the Battle Creek Sanitarium nurse who asked for it under the title, "Through the Postum Gate."

*Optimistic books.* While it is probably true as has been observed that many women enjoy sorrow and seem sadly exhilarated over that which is morbid and

\*Extract from address before Indiana and New York library associations on "Extensive extension and intensive extension."

depressing, a man's tastes are along different lines. He wants cheerfulness and success and uplift. It might be said that he demands stories of regeneration rather than degeneration. He prefers the story of the regeneration of a human being as depicted in the *Conquest of Canaan* over the detail of the degenerate processes in *Lewis Rand*.

*Books of adventure, travel, and action.* Then, too, books of adventure and travel appeal to him. Such books as Francke's *A vagabond journey around the world*, his *Four months afoot in Spain*, Borup's *A tenderfoot with Peary*, Horace Smith's *A captain unafraid*, or some of the Labrador tales of Norman Duncan can be thrown in his way with considerable assurance that they will be welcomed. Adventurous fiction has also an appeal: Rhodes' *Good men and true*, Kipling's stories of the Orient, Owen Wister's western tales, and London's accounts of South Sea Islanders. The demand for mystery stories and detective tales is also so strong that it leaves the librarian no choice except that of selecting the best. That books not only of action and vigor but of actual violence are popular is evidenced by the fact that among the books sent by the Carnegie library at Pittsburgh to the engine houses two of the titles most popular among the firemen were Avery's *A Virginia girl in the Civil war* and *Famous adventures and prison escapes of the Civil war*. A somewhat careful compilation of figures showing the home circulation from Wisconsin traveling libraries revealed that among the non-fiction circulating most frequently throughout the state is this same book, *Famous adventures and prison es-*

capes of the Civil war. In the same class with it, so far as popularity is concerned, are also Andrew's War time journal of a Georgia girl, Pittenger's Great locomotive chase, Buell's Life of Paul Jones, and Steevens' With Kitchener to Khartum. The extreme popularity of Wallace's The long Labrador trail, Schultz's My life as an Indian, and even Fiske's How the U. S. became a nation, is cumulative evidence of human hunger for stories of adventure and action and an indication that this hunger prevails alike in the smoke of Pittsburgh or the invigorating air of northern Wisconsin.

*Novels.* Men will read novels—love stories, if you please—but they have a decided leaning toward romance rather than sentimentalism. While the development of Gilbert Parker's characters and the spirit of the open found in Hewlett appeal to most men, comparatively few have leisure to read the more prolix De Morgan or care much for Galsworthy's pictures of conventional conditions in England. More than one man has been carried back to his memories of Lorna Doone over Jeffery Farnol's The broad highway. Comments by masculine readers would indicate that a political setting is a popular background: As witness, Holman Day's The ramrodders, William Allen Whites A certain rich man, Winston Churchill's Coniston, and the same author's Mr Crewe's career.

To younger men and boys such athletic stories as Fullerton's Touching second, Van Loan's The big league, Christie Mathewson's Pitching in a pinch. Owen Johnson's The varmint and his Stover at Yale are not only attractive but they are inspirations to clean living, moral as well as physical. The boy fond of out-of-door life will revel also in Boy scouts of America—the official handbook for boys, and in Thompson Seton's Two little savages, now to be had in Grossett's fifty-cent edition. The boy scout movement is more or less a fad, but while it prevails it is educating its followers not only in the field but in the library. The lists of boy scout books

issued by the St. Joseph, Mo., Public library is of value in this connection.

*The literary likes of boys.* Six hundred boys in New York City and the boys in 150 high schools in Wisconsin some time ago registered votes of their personal preferences in literature. An inspection of the twenty books receiving the highest number of votes in each of these ballots disclosed the following facts:

Stevenson's Treasure Island leads in both lists. Both lists contain Cooper's Spy and The last of the Mohicans. There appears on both lists also Dickens' Tale of Two Cities, Twain's Tom Sawyer, Jack London's Call of the wild. Scott is also represented on both lists. We note also such books as Silas Marner, Ben Hur, Evangeline, and David Copperfield. The list clearly evidences the clean, wholesome, intelligent taste among boys. There is as might be expected a noticeable fondness for books of action. Something must be doing all of the time, but the action demanded is for the most part along decent, commendable if not heroic lines and indicates that the boys hold wholesome ideals of physical and moral prowess and heroism. It is to be remarked that this list contained almost no books which are found on the lists of required reading in the schools.

Boys (and men are not different) cannot be driven to read good literature by admonition. They will read what they like and will generally carefully avoid that which they are told they ought to read. I know of no more efficacious prescription for preventing the reading of such a book as Les Miserables than to hand the book with its imposing length and its usually forbidding binding to a boy and suggest that he ought to read it. If on the other hand, however, he can be inveigled into reading the scene where Jean Valjean has his terrible silent struggle with thugs in the room adjoining that of Marius the result will be quite different. By the time he has read the scene through and gathered enough of the context to understand it, he realizes that the book is worth while. Possibly this prin-

ciple explains why the rising generation are so ignorant of the Bible and why they know so little of some of the standards, which, were they to discover, would please and attract. It is well enough for a librarian to know what a boy ought to have but the knowledge should be carefully concealed. To know what boys actually like is of vastly more value than to know what they ought to like.

*Humor.* We warn our librarians not to forget to serve the man who appreciates the truly humorous. He is likely to be a big man with a big mind, working on big subjects, who needs the relaxation and refreshment that comes with a good laugh. It is well to be on the lookout for a good book over which Abraham Lincoln, for example, would have laughed. Books such as these, I must admit, are hard to get, but one can be secured occasionally, even among modern books. Men as a rule enjoy the cleverness and satire of Arnold Bennett, amusing racial characteristics as depicted by Montague Glass, the whimsical humor of W. J. Locke, the diverting narrative of Stewart's Fugitive blacksmith, the hamless profanity of Holman Day's The skipper and the skipped, the philosophy concealed in Bacheller's farcical recital of the extravagance indulged in in Keeping up with Lizzie, the pathetic character study of Alice Hegan Rice's futilely heroic Mr Opp.

The week of October 7-12 was observed generally throughout the country as Riley week, James Whitcomb Riley, the Hoosier poet, having passed his fifty-ninth birthday, October 9. Programs and celebrations relating to the life and works of the Hoosier poet, exhibits and addresses, were the order of the day.

The movement to honor great men of the nation while they are still alive is most commendable, and none of the modern writers have contributed more genuinely to portraying the homely pictures of rural life than Riley. His contribution to real American literature deserves the honor that was paid him.

## The Library School and Its Work for Libraries\*

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For nearly 30 years an invigorating influence has come to library work through the library schools. During that time hundreds of young men and women, selected for personal and educational qualifications, have been given training in the mechanics of library work and have been placed in touch with the best library thought. As a result, fewer libraries have been converted into laboratories for experimental work in technique.

The library schools have been commended repeatedly by this association and their services are too obvious for comment. In considering, however, what they can do for the profession today, we shall assume the role of the devil's advocate and endeavor to point out how they may serve more fully in what they are doing and what they should do that perhaps is not being done. In the time available we can do little more than summarize.

The first library school was founded and conducted in connection with a university library and for several years at least its curriculum showed the strong influence of university demands. The curricula of the later schools have been modified somewhat, but changes have been unimportant as compared to the traditions retained. These were carried from the pioneer school to those established later with certain general basic principles which doubtless always will be kept.

For several years a feeling has been sensed, although vaguely expressed, that changes and modifications in library school courses were needed. There have been convictions that the schools were not as closely in touch with certain growing activities in library work as libraries themselves were with growing demands and new fields open to them. These convictions have been most pronounced in the schools themselves. As stated by one

\*Read at the A. L. A. meeting at Ottawa.

library school director, "In *some* way, the library school should train its students to meet the vital demands that humanity makes upon all who come regularly in communication with people." The aim of the school seems more clearly realized than the means of attaining it, but efforts are seen in the shifts and changes in curricula. In preparing its students to meet the vital demands that humanity will make, it is evident the schools have concluded this can best be done by additions rather than eliminations from courses of study. The training conducted by the oldest school began with a three months' course which in the second year was increased to seven months and then to two years. Another school, typical of several, has never increased the time period over one year, but has so increased the work required that in eight and one-half months, including vacations and holidays, instruction and examinations are given in 43 subjects, a minimum of 367 hours of practice is required, and a trip of 600 miles in 10 days is taken when some 15 to 20 libraries are inspected and reported on.

In these crowded courses of study the schools should be expected by the profession to prevent its ideals from being smothered in the stress of technical work. The usual incentive to enter library work comes from a love of books, but this love will avail little if it be unaccompanied by a consuming desire that the community also share it. Generalities and pseudo-sentiment concerning ideals have invited ridicule, but no librarian, however reticent or how unrecognized his actuating principles may be, can carry on his work successfully without following the vision which vitalizes his professional life. From 1876 to the present day this association has cherished its aims and our schools can do no greater service than imparting those guiding principles that the means of work may not become the end.

No institution can create qualities lacking in a student and library schools will concern themselves mainly with the mechanics of library work, which is most difficult to obtain elsewhere. But this instruction may either strengthen or

weaken indispensable qualities for librarianship and the profession reasonably can expect the schools to foster such. Three related qualities which should be developed in prospective librarians are: a sense of proportion in library work, initiative and judgment.

When we consider the importance of a proper sense of proportion, should we not congratulate ourselves that the schools are devoting less attention to a particular handwriting and other incidentals, the insistence on which always seemed to belittle the dignity of a great work? Legibility in a medical prescription is more important than on a catalog card, but medical colleges and library schools alike can concentrate their strength on more vital needs.

In expecting the schools to develop initiative and good judgment in a student, it is not suggested that students be encouraged to attempt changes in systems of classification, cataloging and other technical processes which have been perfected by the best library thought of two generations. In such a course as book selection, however, after general principles are presented, cannot students be thrown more fully on their own judgment and their practice work be confined to evaluating current publications? Their conclusions could then be verified by comparison with selections in the order department. A year's work confined to sitting in judgment on books from five to fifty years old, when these books are known to be desirable through their presence on the shelves, deadens initiative and judgment and makes routine of what should be one of the refreshing pleasures of the work.

One of the profession's needs today is more men—men whose abilities would qualify them for the highest positions in any work, and these the library schools should attract. While many of the most useful and talented library workers are women, the fact remains that the demand for good men far exceeds the supply, yet we find an astonishing shortage in the schools. Even the school most largely attended by men, reports a decrease since the year 1903. More than one school

has attracted so few that the presence of a man is noteworthy and there seem to be schools connected with universities where hundreds of young men are preparing for professional life, that have yet to enroll one man student.

Should we not expect the schools to supply more men? Can they not co-operate with the American library association in presenting the claims and rewards of librarianship to young men in the universities? Not only would such presentations interest men, but they would help to dispel many existing mediaeval conceptions of library work which still survives. Our shortage in men cannot be due entirely to the financial returns in library work. The average salary of men in that work exceeds the average in several crowded professions, and yet our greatest rewards are not in money returns. Men may regard the school courses simply as means to an end, and if so, perhaps the means could be made to appeal more strongly to men. It is rash in these days to compare attributes of the masculine and feminine mind, but may we venture to say women, as a rule, have more patience and enjoyment than men in work requiring sustained attention to details. Do not library school courses, as now arranged, appeal largely to the housewifely instincts, and cannot courses be devised for men who never intend to fill library positions where the exercise of these instincts will ever play so important a part in their work as will problems of administration and questions of library policy? We shall admit that all students should have sufficient training in cataloging for instance to know good or poor cataloging when met with. But personally I fail to see why a man destined for administrative work should necessarily have to do expert cataloging in order to appreciate it, any more than he would first have to write a book before his judgment in book selection for his library could be relied on.

During the last 10 years the library has undergone phenomenal development in its relations with other educational and social forces. Today we must co-operate not only with the public school, but with

the social settlement, the juvenile court, and various other special municipal activities. The profession should expect the schools to provide their students with a working knowledge of what the relations of a library to these activities should be, what methods employed bring best results, and what some of the problems and possibilities are from such relations. And most important of all, the schools should be expected to provide candidates for library work with a proper appreciation at least of the importance of the library's public relations in general. No mastery of technique or high endeavor greatly avails if the library's public relations be not handled intelligently and skillfully. Rules and regulations are but the written creeds of institutions in the details of loaning books, but back of them all are the great unwritten laws and principles of procedure, more important than all the printed regulations in existence. Great policies in public relations are being tried and tested today and light on them should be focused through the schools so prospective librarians can see ahead more clearly. Questions of relations with the public are confronting all who, in the words quoted before, have to meet with the vital demands that come through constant communication with people. In the *Public Service Magazine* of April, 1912, under the heading "Public relations—the vital problem," the following is taken from the president's address before the Illinois Association of Gas Manufacturers:

Slowly probably, but surely, the majority of owners and operators of public utilities are coming to the realization that the most important—the most vital subject with which they have to deal in the management of their properties today, is that of public relations. It used to be that the man who could put the most gas in the holders at the lowest cost, or could generate the most power at the electric or street car plant, was the most important in the whole organization.

It is different now. The basis of organization has changed and the man who has made a study of public relations—the man who can create and conserve the public good will is given the reins of control.

But should a man wish to make a particular study of the library's public rela-

tions before he is compelled to assume the responsibilities accompanying them, he may have difficulty. One school makes provision for special students, but on account of the extra work each additional student makes on the faculty, it is often impossible to enter. Admission depends on available desk room and on condition that the regular classes are not so large as to occupy the entire time of the faculty.

The theory at present seems to be—give *every* student a little of everything he *may* need, as the process of forgetting what he will not use is easier than the work of acquiring it *should* he need it. We therefore see men destined for control of large libraries, women planning for positions as catalogers in university libraries, candidates for small public institutions, those who will specialize in bibliographical work—all of them differing in natural inclinations, special preliminary training and professional aims in library life, being introduced to 43 phases of library work, with instruction in all of them varying from 2 to 101 hours, according to the subject, with at least 377 hours of practice work and a library trip—through all of which the student emerges in eight and one-half months, possibly somewhat bewildered by the process but groping for the ladder up which he is determined to climb.

Cannot the schools do the greatest service to the student and to the profession by abandoning the plan of putting all students through the same square hole? Instead of giving a little of everything, cannot the school give *much* of what the student will use and nothing of what he can dispense with or what can be got easily outside of the school? Cannot the courses be simplified somewhat to permit this? Entrance examinations are conducted early in June for admission to the school in September. Cannot a study of the history of libraries, the history of books and printing, the reading of library literature on publishing houses and other non-technical work be required of the student during the intervening three months? The literature would gladly be provided by libraries over the country and the three months' reading

and intelligent observation in the library by the student before beginning his technical training would be advantageous. Three months' acquaintance and observation of the student by the librarian would make his recommendations valuable to the school.

But school courses as at present outlined cannot be made sufficiently flexible to provide specific training for specific work. Therefore, cannot the schools divide the instructional field between them and concentrate their individual efforts on special lines? This division of work is done most successfully by libraries in large cities.

Such a division would have several advantages. A man loving responsibility and the management of affairs could secure a maximum of definite training for administrative work and a minimum of work less important in his professional career. A woman under appointment as head of a small public library would receive a maximum of training for this work and a minimum in the methods and features of work in a college library. One of promise as a cataloger would receive a maximum of technical training made possible through a minimum of time and effort required in studying the problems of a children's librarian.

The objection can be raised that neither the school nor the student can determine his future work and therefore a minimum number of hours in as many as 43 subjects is preferable as a foundation. But in these general courses as outlined today there is a great preponderance of work in certain lines. In speaking of the time devoted to cataloging, one school director said, "There is, however, much reason for this, as a large number of the graduates become catalogers and many others enter positions where a knowledge of cataloging is essential."

We shall agree that an expert knowledge of cataloging is essential in many positions, but has not the large number of graduates from this school who have become catalogers been due partly at least to the fact that twice the time in school was devoted to this work than to any other, the aggregate equaling the

combined hours of seventeen other branches?

The fact that one's special training largely determines one's field of work is seen in another library school where a maximum of children's work is made possible by a minimum in some other departments. The result is that of the 148 graduates of this school, 107 were last year engaged in children's work, principally as heads of departments. The remaining 41 graduates were represented in other fields of library work.

The division of the field between the various schools would have another advantage to the student. At present a school's geographical location, or its entrance requirements largely decides a student in selecting a school. But would it not be better if the student's selection were based on what the school could offer in special lines of work?

It may be thought that a prospective student lacks the self knowledge to determine his qualifications for special work. Many students have and more should have library experience before schools are entered, and these will know their intentions and qualifications. Even if an occasional mistake were made, the student still would have instruction in the various lines of library work.

In the school referred to before, the 41 graduates who are not filling positions for which special training was given, are successfully occupying positions of honor and responsibility in other library fields.

Again, the law of supply and demand makes no exception to library work, and with a division of the field a student could receive the fullest training in the work for which there was the greatest demand.

In conclusion, the profession should not expect the schools to turn out finished products. Librarianship is not merely a process. It is also a habit of mind—an attitude towards public affairs which seeks activity through the medium of books. But in inculcating the principles toward this attitude, the profession *must* rely and *can* rely with confidence on the schools.

### Subject Headings\*

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The assignment of subject headings is a bewildering task to any classifier or cataloger.

The expression subject heading cannot be found in any of the standard dictionaries or encyclopedias, although I have not been able to consult Webster's New International Dictionary.† Librarians, however, have agreed in defining the term as "A name of a subject used as a heading, under which books relating to that subject are entered." This definition reiterates the component parts of the name without elucidating them. A bulky definition which may perhaps be used as a working guide is this: A subject-heading is the *name* of a division or subdivision of knowledge which is used as a designation or class name, under which are listed all books or parts of books which bear upon that branch of knowledge.

This branch of knowledge is called a subject and its name becomes a heading or something used at the top of something else. Originally a subject heading was the top line on a printed page and appeared only *once* for any number of book entries from ten to a thousand or more, now it is the top line on a card and is repeated for every book entry made. This seems necessary but cumbersome. Could only one entry be made on a *guide* card and the cards to be filed arranged in sets, that is, an author card with the subject headings indicated in alphabetical order on the back, could serve as a guide for filling subject cards, which would be made without a heading? The author card would be the last card filled. Would this method lead to confusion and would it save any time?

How do we find subject headings? By examining each book carefully from title page to index and noting the topic or topics treated in it. The possible headings must be compared and as many as

\*Read before Ontario library association.  
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†Not given.

possible dispensed with, until there remain only the most specific headings or sets of headings which will adequately express the nature of the book.

A book such as Edser's *Heat* is an example of the book simple. Its one theme is heat and it can be given the heading, *Heat*, which is the same as the name of its class-mark, but here is a book which bears the title *Physics*, and contains large sections on heat, electricity, mechanics, etc. It embraces so many of the subclasses of physics that it is a general treatise on physics, and may be given that subject-heading, and no further subject work, such as making the headings *Electricity*, *Heat*, etc., need be done, as it is understood that all books on the general subject of physics contain much valuable material on all the subdivisions. This book, however, contains two important divisions which have not yet been accounted for, an excellent bibliography of the best recent books in physics, and a retrospect of the recent advances in physics, which is really a history of physics for the last ten years, such as one cannot expect to find duplicated any time soon. A classifier would, therefore, be remiss, who did not make the headings *Physics-Bibliography*, and *Physics-History*. With these and the heading *Physics*, the contents of the book are well accounted for.

Here is another book, "The true relation of capital and labor." A young classifier made the following headings for the reasons assigned:

*Economics*—because the book deals with two large divisions of economics.

*Capital*—because it is one of the main themes of the book.

*Labor*—because it is the other main theme of the book.

*Hours of labor*—because a large portion of the book is taken up in discussion of this problem.

*Eight hour day*—because one whole chapter is devoted to this question.

It had to be pointed out that the classifier had been too lavish in the use of headings, and that by the method of exclusion the five headings could be reduced to two, *Hours of labor*, and *Labor*

and *capital*, with the use of two general references:

<i>Capital and labor</i>	SEE
<i>Labor and capital</i>	
<i>Eight hour day</i>	SEE
<i>Hours of labor</i>	

The heading *Economics* was abandoned as being too general, when it was considered that *Labor* and *Capital* were the opposite sides of the same question. The heading *Eight hour day* was abandoned as being too specific and perhaps later necessitating the use of *Six hour day*, both of which could be better placed under the more general heading *Hours of labor*.

We can have 20 headings or more, if necessary, but the great thing is to practice that rigid but generous economy which makes the fewest possible headings cover the book thoroughly and adequately.

We have to consider the form of the heading. Almost anything may be used as a heading as long as it expresses an idea—a noun, a compound noun, two nouns joined by "and," a combination of an adjective and a noun, an inverted adjective and noun, a phrase, the name of a country, with sub-headings, such as *History*, *Constitution*.

So much freedom is left us in the choice of subject-headings that it behooves us to be careful and sensible in our choice, trying as far as possible to make the catalog with its headings the best possible medium of communication between the reader barred out of Paradise and the books on their lonely shelves.

We cannot say as one writer does, "Except in the case of language and literature headings, use the noun with a subdivision instead of the adjective form, e. g., *Electricity*, *bells*, instead of *Electric bells*." Neither does the A. L. A. list advise this, for it arranges the headings *Electric bells*, *Electric currents*, etc., in their proper alphabetical place before *Electricity*. This seems to me the usage best suited to the wants of the reader, who when he classifies at all, does so speedily and specifically. He would hardly dream of the circumlocution—*Electricity*, *Bells*, or even of the general

heading Bells, if he wanted to get books on electric bells. Several generalizations may, however, be made, such as this: Put names of literature and language under the adjectival form, because these forms may differ from the names of the countries in which the language or literature is current—Gaelic language, Norse literature. Certain well defined sub-heads are used under the names of countries, as shown in the new A. L. A. list of subject headings under the heading United States. Such large classes as Philosophy, Geology, Political Science, are not used as sub-heads under country. I suppose because each has an existence independent of country limitations.

Sometimes it is necessary to abandon one heading for another or one form of heading for another. This is done to avoid double entry when a word or phrase has almost the same meaning as another word or phrase, or when words are inverted. When one heading is given up and another used in its place it is customary to enter the former only once with the word SEE written large, a sign-post to the heading which it has been decided to use. No entry under the abandoned heading should ever be allowed to creep into the catalog. If the word Earthenware has been abandoned for its synonym Pottery, the entry should be Earthenware, SEE Pottery, and all entries should be made under Pottery. So also with synonymous groups of words and inversions, e. g., Ecclesiastical costume, SEE Church vestments, or Modern History, SEE History, modern. The first heading is dead as far as your catalog is concerned and has SEE for its tomb-stone.

We must discuss here the matter of additional or complementary headings, which make up the cataloger's maze.

Certain subjects are nearly allied, but not identical, and the books entered under one heading may be useful to a reader studying an allied subject, so the ingenious cataloger has built up a huge system of references from a subject to its related subjects, and from each of the latter to each of its related subjects, and

so on indefinitely. This reference from one subject to another is indicated by the words See also. There is the entry Boulders, See also Drift, Glaciers, Moraines, which means that under each and all of these headings may be found information on boulders, or on things very closely akin to boulders. Each of these headings Drift, Glaciers, Moraines, has attached to it a series of references to related subjects, so that an endless chain of references back and forth is created. This is useful but very bewildering. I sometimes think it would be better to leave references to allied subjects out of the catalog altogether and regard the A. L. A. list of subject headings merely as a cataloger's tool, as it is a technical compilation.

If we eliminate from the face of the author cards all tracings of title and editor cards, why could we not eliminate or greatly modify the use of references in the subject catalog especially when we will persist in entering them on cards in an unalphabetized jumble? Instead of having to transcribe these lists of references, it seems as if some use might be made of the information already so carefully collected in the A. L. A. list, by placing copies near the catalog, each copy having on it a notice something like this:

This book contains suggestions for further headings under which you may find information about the subject in which you are interested. Only the headings underscored in red will be found in the catalog.

For this purpose the refer from side of the page would perhaps have to be cut out. Miss Briggs, in her introduction to the third edition of the A. L. A. list of subject headings gives the following advice: "Long lists of references to specific subjects may be avoided by general references, as for instance under Industrial Arts and under Manufactures See also names of industries, but if there are few specific headings, it is better to enumerate them that the reader may see at a glance where further material may be found. Another method of shortening the list of references is to refer from the most general to the next less inclu-

sive heading and from the latter to the next lower, e. g., Zoology, See also Vertebrates; Vertebrates, See also Mammals; Mammals, See also Carnivora, and so on to a specific animal.

The references in a card catalog are more easily read if arranged in columns rather than in a solid paragraph, with two or three columns on a card according to the length of the headings.

The cataloger is advised to check headings and references as used, and to add new headings required.

### The Gracious Time

Harriet Sabra Wright, New Britain institute, New Britain, Conn.

In the children's library certain peculiar signs "mark the coming of that season wherein the Saviour's birth is celebrated." Each drear December is ushered in with an accompanying chorus of demands for Christmas stories "for our teacher to read to us in school." And so on during the intervening weeks requests multiply, not only for stories but especially for Christmas poems. Even the least of us must be fortified against a possible opportunity to "say a piece" at church or at school on this most auspicious High Feast of the year. There lives no child with soul so dead as not to yearn for a chance to recite "Hang up the baby's stocking" or "The night before Christmas."

Indeed as we witness the children's yearly recurring hunger for Christmas literature we renew the Christian hope that all men, Jews and Gentiles alike, shall one day come to the brightness of His rising. But the fulness of that time is not yet come. For the present we must sympathize with little Leah, eagerly yet humbly asking, "Aren't there any Christmas poems in this library that don't say anything about Christ? You know, we Jew children don't believe it."

What reply shall we make? We dare not look again with our usual self-complacency into the depths of Leah's eyes. Those patient eyes of hers have seen the pillage and the burning of her father's home in Russia. Could we but help her

to forget that sight! Go to, then. At least, Leah should be allowed to take to her father's home in America the choicest volume of poetry on our library shelves. But that particular book happens to be handsomely bound and embellished; perchance Leah's hands are not clean. We blush for all Christendom when we look into her eyes. We'd think shame to notice the unwashed state of her hands. Take the book, Leah. It is your due. Now is the hallowed and the gracious time.

We fancy that the copy of Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair," conspicuously displayed in the library at Christmas time exerts a quieting influence upon our young Catholic patrons. But in the interests of universal peace and good will, rather than from a fine sense of the fitness of things, we must, even at this season, make a place also for attractively colored pictures of heroes of the ancient Hebrews. And these never fail to gladden young hearts taught to remember still with bitterness the woes of their race during too many most unchristian centuries.

The happy spot where a city's children meet week in and week out for the friendly exchange of library books knows nothing of a traditional ancient grudge against the tribe of Israel. Here small Christians greet the Hebrew children in the spirit of the old prayer of the church.

There is reason to fear that in the homes of strictly orthodox Jews "liberaries" may occasionally appear as bane rather than blessing. Israel Goldband, in an evil hour, chose to take home "The story of the New Testament in words of one syllable." Next day he scornfully declared to the attendant: "I brought that book just back. In that book it stands how Mary found the little baby Jesus in a barn at Bethlehem and my mother doesn't like it. She says she likes I should bring on my house from the library the 'Story of the Old Testament.'" And he added in a gentler tone: "You see I teach my mother. She likes she should learn English. She knows now some words, but I want to show her a sentence."

The children's librarian confesses to a particular fondness for the Israel Goldband type of child, though she tries, as far as grace is given her, to cultivate an impartial attitude toward all sorts and conditions of children. For the unfortunate pampered children of the rich who favor us with their presence, she has much charity, but little real affection. Most formidable bug-a-boo of all, however, is the over anxious mother who follows in the wake of little pet and asks in a desperate tone, "Will you please get Elsie a clean story book, if you have one; as quickly as possible, please, I'm so afraid of germs in here." Her wish is sure to be fulfilled as promptly as willing hands can effect it and Elsie, dressed like the Queen of Sheba, goes from our midst followed by admiring eyes and envious hearts, all unconscious of their guilty load of germs.

For the fortunate possessor of some wealth the week before Christmas is the happiest and busiest time of the year, of course. Then the World of Books is not the world. But what of those children whose papas are not as rich as rich can be? If one is absolutely destitute of the wherewithal for Christmas giving, even the low price tags in the Five and Ten-cent store offer small consolation. Harder than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle is it for the penniless urchin to gain repeated admission to the shops at Christmas time. At the door of the "Five and Ten" stands a policeman, as terrifying in aspect as that angel with the flaming sword who guarded another Paradise. He says: "You've been hanging around since eight o'clock this morning. Get out here, now, and stay out!" Poor little empty-handed folk! You must stifle your generous impulses. Christmas giving is not meant for such as you. But come to the children's library. Read and remember your poverty no more.

With the nearer approach of Christmas day the number of our well-to-do boy and girl visitors materially decreases and the "library teacher" and the children of the poor have the field quite to themselves. Only a ragged and forlorn remnant remains constant to library privileges. This

brief lull in the year's occupations furnishes the "ladies in the library" a welcome opportunity to become better acquainted with city waifs. On busy days we are only dimly conscious of a numerous company of shabby and dirty youngsters who hover about in the corners and hug the walls of the reading room, seldom presenting themselves at the charging desk, because they don't "belong to the library." They have been told that their hands are not clean and they are quite sure that their hearts are not pure, so they are for the most part content to remain in the outer darkness. Between them and those other children who are recommended by teacher or parent as "suitable persons" there is indeed a great gulf fixed.

But just before Christmas we build a bridge across that gulf. All well-regulated children leave ours for fairer fields and their rightful places are speedily usurped. Thankful for the removal of human barriers, Mike Ryan makes bold to approach the one whom he has chosen to be his favorite lady, on whom he has wistfully gazed from afar for many weeks.

"There ain't much boys here now, bees there?" he ventures cautiously.

"Then what shall we do to celebrate, you and I?" she replies.

"Could you be after readin' out of a book like you do fer them other guys?"

"It's usually poetry that I read. Would you like that?"

"Sure I would, lady, and I know two other fellows likes it, too."

To the casual observer it would hardly seem probable that such evident rascallions as Mike and his two satellites Stanislaus and Andrew would be the least bit susceptible to the charm of poetry. "Library teachers," however, taught by experience know that in one half-fed body may reside more of "such stuff as dreams are made of" than in ninety and nine well-nourished bodies that have no need of dreams.

Born in a far country, Stanislaus has brought to our busy New England factory town mental pictures of charming Old World scenes and customs.

"In my country they wear wooden shoes, so that's why I like it when

'Wynken, Blinken and Nod one night,  
Sailed off in a wooden shoe'

he murmured with a sigh of approval, as he pressed close against the reader's side to see for himself the magical words he had heard.

"I'll go to school now," he added, "and get smart so that I can read good, too."

"He gets licked every day fer tryin' to play hookey," explained Mike, for he perceived that Stanislaus was already finding too much favor in the lady's eyes.

Rudely jostled from the lofty pinnacle of poetic exaltation by Mike's ill-natured thrust, Stanislaus fell upon the rough reality of his own depravity. To relieve his confusion he burst into a violent fit of giggles, in which Mike and Andrew joined with equal zest and the three made a rapid and noisy exit to the freedom of the street.

One slight humiliation availed not at all to interrupt the accustomed regularity of Stanislaus' visits. To our own chagrin, however, we discovered that a force more potent than mere love of literature for its own sake impelled him daily to seek a peaceful refuge within our walls. At the age of nine, he was expected to assume the management of a family of four younger brothers and sisters that his mother and father might labor together for the meat that perisheth. But he chose to escape his share of the family burden by indulging his literary taste in more congenial surroundings.

"If I stay home I have to give the baby drinks of water and so I don't stay there," he informed us. Who will blame him for his frailty? Have not men older and wiser than he erred in the same manner?

Once, on the day before Christmas, Stanislaus did not appear to us until late afternoon. He explained that he had been scrubbing his mother's floor and shining his mother's stove. Smudges of stove blacking on cheek and on clothing evidenced the truth of his statement.

"What time do you lock on Christmas eve?" he inquired breathlessly. Even as he spoke the hour for "locking" struck, and the heart of the "library teacher"

was touched with pity for the little wretch who was to receive no other reward than virtue's own for his efforts to bring his mother's floor and stove to a state of cleanliness and polish befitting Christmas day.

"The library always closes at six o'clock on Christmas eve and does not open until the day after Christmas, but," with a sudden inspiration she added: "I would be glad to meet you and your friends in the Children's room on Christmas night, if you would like to come here then."

Careless of the fact that she was establishing a bad precedent for which her contemporaries and her successors on the library staff might reasonably hold her name in abhorrence, she began preparations for a mild form of Christmas celebration in the library precincts. Upon her good natured janitor she knew she could depend for some assistance, for he was a German, the father of seven children, and accordingly full of genuine Christmas spirit.

On the following night, when the janitor opened the big outer door, at the time appointed, he scarcely recognized Stanislaus, Mike and Andrew in such an unwonted state of cleanliness and good manners did they present themselves. Yet his surprise was as nothing to theirs when they gazed with big-eyed wonder on a real Christmas tree adorning one of the reading tables. On it were glittering ornaments, tinsel, and colored candles in abundance.

With much difficulty the "library teacher" persuaded the kind-hearted German that the dispensing of presents from a Christmas tree would not be a suitable performance in a library. He did so want to bring a few toys of the good German sort for the poor *kinder*. For the sake of library decorum and for the preservation of the purely literary atmosphere which she knew should envelop her as custodian of a collection of books, the lady also conquered her own desire to play Lady Bountiful.

"It's just like in the church," said Andrew Blogoslawski, as with bated breath he held the taper to light each tiny candle as carefully as he would have

lighted the candles on the altar of his church.

And Stanislaus, remembering that he was the fortunate possessor of one Christmas token, thrust his hand within his ragged blouse and produced a small card representing the Virgin and Child in a setting sufficiently gaudy to satisfy the eye of the youngest devotee. "It's a holy picture," he explained as he reverently placed it on the tree, "and Sister Mary Agnes has a big one like it in our room at the convent school."

A most timely truth was again impressed upon the mind of the "library teacher"—that for the gentle manners of the little lads at this hallowed time of the year some credit should be given to the influence of Sister Mary Agnes and the holy pictures at the convent school. She was reminded how certain mediæval writers were wont to connect courtesy itself with the worship of the Virgin Mary. As one rare old manuscript book of "Mediæval manners for the young" expressed it: "Courtesy came down from Heaven when Gabriel greeted the Virgin and when Mary and Elizabeth met."

Perhaps it is because we witness in the children's library so many outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace that we look forward with pleasure to the Christmas season and all the "sweet thoughts and deeds that last of it."

#### A Correction

In the article on "Periodicals for the Children's Room" on p. 121 of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for April, 1912, the writer wishes to correct an error due to a slip of her pen. *Childlore* was intended where *Birdlore* appears in reference to magazines for very little people.

MAUD VAN BUREN.

#### Sewing vs. Wire-Stitching

I wonder whether the writers who advocated the removal of wire stitching from magazines stopped for an instant to consider the practical side of the question. There are many reforms which we of the periodical departments hope to see eventually brought about, and one of

them is the introduction, by the publishers, of some practical sort of sewed binding to replace the present wires. But would it be worth while or economical for us to do as has been suggested? The time required to remove the wires, punch holes, and sew any number of thick octavos like *Everybody's* or *Good Housekeeping* would be considerable. Again, the punching of holes in itself weakens the page, and when the thread was removed, as it finally would have to be, I doubt whether it would be possible to use the same copies for binding. It is curious that both letters have come from binders who would benefit if large libraries should send out their magazines to be sewed. We average in our periodical department between three and four hundred readers daily, and yet I have never heard from a reader a complaint against wire stitching.

PERIODICAL DEPT. CHIEF.

#### Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I have just read in your paper a letter on wire stitching, signed Binder, and to show you how far we are interested in the matter, please read p. 12-14, t. V. Enero-Diciembre, 1911 of la *Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional*, Habana. It is a protest against this growing abuse which not only hinders people from reading a book, but gives sufferings to the one who reads. Besides it is much useless work to the assistant who prepares books and magazines for binding. If the public refused to buy sheets put together with wire, there would soon be an end to the worry.

E. FIGAROLA-CANEDA,  
Assistant-librarian.

Biblioteca Nacional, Habana, Republica de Cuba.

#### Is It Worth While?

##### Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I have read with thoughtful interest your editorial in the November PUBLIC LIBRARIES concerning library meetings. It suggests a conviction of my own which I have felt very strongly but have hesitated to put into words. As the years

go by, I question more and more, not only the need of such frequent local library association meetings, but their real value to those attending.

As a matter of professional duty, I recently left my library at an inconvenient time to attend a library club meeting. The program was the usual one, two or three general addresses in the morning, luncheon, and then a symposium for general discussion. Without prejudice and in no spirit of criticism, I came away from that meeting in a state of mental depression. I can honestly say, not merely that I received no inspiration, but that I was conscious of a touch of self-satisfaction because my library made so favorable a showing in regard to methods reported by others.

Next day I asked my first assistant, who also was present, what she got from that meeting. Her reply in itself was illuminating. She said frankly: "I really did not get anything helpful from it. We are already doing all the things suggested."

Then I asked a friend in charge of an important branch of a large city library how helpful the meeting had been to her. She replied as follows: "I got more inspiration and uplift from 15 minutes that I spent in a little library on my way home than I did from that whole day. I heard absolutely nothing that I did not know before."

Now, here are three different people all of one opinion about that meeting. One of the three is a library school graduate, one has had a course at a summer school, the third has received thorough training in a big public library, yet all were agreed.

I have arrived at the conclusion that a librarian who has behind her 10 or 15 years of earnest, practical experience, who has successfully worked out the problems of her especial community and enjoys its confidence, who conscientiously reads and ponders the A. L. A. proceedings, *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, the *Library Journal* and the bulletins of other libraries, is not likely to receive much

help or inspiration from these frequent local association meetings as at present conducted. It may be said that such a librarian should nevertheless attend them, in order to encourage others to go, but this I also question. Is it worth while to leave one's own work—often pressing and absorbingly interesting—for a hard trip of a day or more, to be tired for two days afterwards and, worst of all, to come back fearful lest one is becoming a Pharisee? Is the duty worth the price in time, strength or money? One well-arranged, well-attended meeting a year, with a program upon which can then be concentrated the care now spread over three or four, ought to prove more satisfying than the present arrangement. More helpful ideas and more genuine inspiration can be obtained from visiting another library and from talking with its librarian in the environment where he or she naturally appears to the best advantage, than from twenty casual and hurried encounters at an association meeting. Three days a year, seriously spent in visiting her neighbors would, in my own opinion, prove of far more lasting benefit to the average librarian than attendance at such frequent and often disappointing association meetings.

AN EASTERN LIBRARIAN.  
Nov. 11, 1912.

#### A Protest Against Changing Programs

I want to protest against the conduct of a meeting of the state association recently held.

The general lack of ability to run off a program and the usual inconvenience that those attending generally submit to, is an injustice to a body of busy business men and women. The conference promised to be one of the best in a long time. There was every opportunity to get somewhere. Through the friendly attitude of the commissioner of education much could have been accomplished. But the program was changed from beginning to end, and without notice, and more than half of those attending were obliged to leave on the 4:30 train for home and

evening duties at the library. I know of two who spent most of the day travelling, simply to hear the reports from librarians on work with schools, but did not hear a word and had no opportunity to ask a question.

In the first place, the program was too much loaded down for one day's session, but if the meeting had begun promptly it probably might have been finished. The speakers were big men in the profession, who ought to know the value of time, and speak to the schedule with no delay and ample time for discussion.

The meeting was called to order 45 minutes late. Fifteen minutes had been allowed for the address of welcome, which required twice that length of time. There were five speakers scheduled for the morning session, followed by reports from five librarians, who were to tell what they had been doing the past year along special lines. But two speakers appeared in the morning. There was no time allowed or available for discussion. There was an hour allowed for a luncheon, that, if it had been served all at once, would have taken but ten minutes to finish. Then an automobile ride followed, and the program was resumed at three o'clock. Then the last number came first and the first, which many had come to hear, was put last. Instead of hearing the practical and professional papers, the audience listened to a scholarly discourse on the "stage," by a well-known university professor.

A number of school people had to leave before anything touching their work was brought out and for which they had spent the day away from their schools in anticipation.

There were also a number of busy trustees who had left their business to hear a discussion of workings of other libraries, hoping to get into closer touch with their duties on the board.

Is it fair to continue spending money on these conventions?

We always have, and always shall leave out about three-fifths of the program, in so far as the majority attending is con-

cerned. We always shall be fully an hour late in starting because of the necessary "social intercourse" preliminary to all successful (?) library meetings.

We always intend to have ample time for full and free discussion, but never will. The great men of our profession always hope that, *this time*, the program will go according to schedule, that they will be released in time to meet their afternoon engagements. We "lesser lights" always hope that, *this time*, we will have a chance to hear the men we have particularly planned to hear, and be willing to take a trip of a day and a half to get the chance. But both great and small will continue to be disappointed. One of my struggling friends left home at six o'clock, spent five hours on the train, left late, spent five hours more on the train to get home before midnight, and did not hear a thing he was particularly anxious to hear. But he, as well as the rest of us, will continue to be hopeful, because nothing should be said in criticism against a library custom, the committee will take it as a personal matter and feel hurt. But we never miss the joy ride and the luncheon is always on time, because, you know, the chauffeurs and waiters must not be kept waiting.

HERBERT W. FISON.

Malden, Mass.

#### A Question of Privilege

I noticed recently an account of a station of the Public library of Louisville, Ky., being established in the county jail at that place. It is stated that the books are taken from the open-shelf room of the Central library, 150 at a time, and as they are read, they are changed for others. Is this a commendable move?

The Library does not allow the colored citizens of Louisville to use the open-shelf room. Are county prisoners more desirable folk? I should like to know if this is the general practice among public libraries.

A KENTUCKY TAXPAYER.

## Public Libraries

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**Reward of merit.**—The library board of Omaha, Neb., has recently taken a step that is entirely outside the usual procedure and one with which few library boards are credited.

Miss O'Brien, who is leaving the Omaha public library after 28 years of service, was presented with a check for \$1,000, and salary check of \$600 for six months in advance, which was added to the check. This is an appreciation of long time service that has been equaled by but few, if any, libraries in towns the size of Omaha.

The board certainly deserve commendation and recognition for their generosity in the matter.

This appreciation may take the form of innumerable applications for positions in the Omaha library, but they may protect themselves behind the screen of limitations, as probably none of the present board will be in the same service at the end of another 28 years.

They have established a precedent, however, which one may hope will be widely followed by other boards.

**Library meetings.**—A number of librarians, particularly in the small libraries, have commended PUBLIC LIBRARIES for pointing out the hardship both to purse and feelings of having so many library meetings during the year.

As one expressed it, "I just can't go to so many meetings, yet I feel that I am losing something that I ought to have, if I don't go to every one within riding distance."

A movement toward lessening the number of meetings is that in which several states will combine for their annual meeting.

Next year it is planned to have the states of Missouri and Kansas combine their association meetings at St. Joseph.

There is much helpfulness in this and exchange of experiences and observation on a larger scale are possible than would be the case if a meeting be held in each state. One drawback in such a case, however, to be guarded against, is the fact that there may be local questions that could better be discussed and settled if the meeting were held within the state; as, for instance, this year in Illinois, when the question of state legislation was up. It was impossible to get as many people to come to St. Louis for that discussion as would have been present if the meeting were held in the center of the state of Illinois. Extremely few people present were prepared to deal with the question, and it remains to be seen whether the discussion and disposition of the question was worth while.

But at any rate something towards

lessening the number of meetings is worth consideration.

**Stick to the text.**—A recent round of attendance at library meetings has given the impression that there is something to be said about the unwillingness or inability of speakers at library meetings to stick to the text. It is entirely too frequently the case that, when a definite problem is presented for discussion, one and another rising to speak, ignores the appointed subject and each one tells the history of his particular institution, or his ideas on some topic entirely foreign to the one under discussion. This consumes time, prevents arriving at conclusions and makes the proceedings seem an undigested mass of unrelated facts.

Library meetings are not peculiar in this regard, but in so far as such meetings are often the work of voluntary services by unpaid participants, for the purpose of bringing out information and developing a knowledge of special library topics, it would seem the part of justice for the presiding officer on such occasions to skillfully lead the speakers back to the topics under discussion, when the latter seem to wander too greatly from their subjects. It is a practice that is common in every-day experiences. Each one is anxious to tell his experience, regardless of whether it has anything to do with the topic under discussion or not.

If a reform of this weakness were begun in meetings of librarians, perhaps its influence might percolate to the outside world and in time speakers in general might learn to "talk to the point and stop when they reached it."

**Mr. H. M. Utley's retirement.**—The resignation of Henry M. Utley, for so long a time librarian of the Public library of Detroit, noted on another page,

brings with it a feeling of regret at the retirement from active service of a long familiar figure in library affairs.

A gentle man, yet strong and decided in personality, a man of a hopeful outlook on the progress of the world, a man with a conscientious attitude toward his work, both from within and without, a dependable man when hard tasks were to be performed, he has stood for many years in the Middle-West as a very present help in the forward movement that has gone on for the past 20 years.

He has seen the Detroit library grow under his management from a small, insignificant collection of books to one of the great systems of the country, and to become an effective and much appreciated institution of Detroit.

He has been honored by his fellow workers with the presidency of the American library association, membership in the American library institute, and membership for many years on various important committees in the American library association. He was president of the Michigan library association for the first dozen or fifteen years of its existence, and one whose opinion in library affairs has always been received with great respect.

The library board of Detroit has conferred upon him the title of librarian emeritus, and while he thus retires from the active conduct of library affairs, it is to be hoped that as he sits in the mellow sunshine of the afternoon, his heart will still incline toward giving the benefit of his counsel and wisdom of long years to those who are still in the midday, toiling to accomplish the things for which very often he has pointed the way, if indeed he has not laid the foundation.

Mr Utley's long service in association with the librarians has won for him the

affection and respect of all who have come in contact with him, and his career is without criticism, either personal or professional.

**Honors for Miss Downey.**—It would seem as if the library workers of Ohio, as represented by the Ohio library association, did not concur in the opinion of the Library commission that the removal of Miss Downey, library organizer for the state, was for the good of the cause, as she was unanimously elected president of the Ohio library association, though not in line for the office. A set of resolutions, expressive of the opinion of the association regarding the removal, add emphasis to their action. (See page 435.) This is worthy of notice, as showing the feeling of her fellow-workers toward the late organizer.

#### Library Progress in India

W. A. Borden, director of state libraries, Baroda, India, is encouraging library development along many lines in that province.

A library association has been formed, a library periodical, *Library Miscellany*, has been started, the first number appearing in August, and a general movement toward the extension of library service is evident in all the reports.

It is to be regretted that the schemes of classification for Sanskrit libraries start out on a different plan from those used in the United States and most of the European countries, being based on the use of letters from A to H. The book numbers are also on a plan devised by Mr Borden himself while he was yet a librarian in the United States.

The field of work to be accomplished so far exceeds the material and opportunity to cover it at present, that it would seem wise to use machinery already working efficiently, in order that time, labor and means may be conserved for use in other directions.

#### Cost of Administration\*

The possibility of deducing a general method for calculating the probable cost of operation of a library.

The problem of ascertaining how the cost of administration of a library is related to the various conditions and factors that affect it is the problem of finding a formula in which, by simple substitution of numbers representing or corresponding to these conditions, a reasonable or approximate cost may be obtained.† The data obtainable are the conditions and actual cost in a limited number of cases. The obstacles are the difficulty of stating certain of the conditions numerically and the difficulty of deciding on the form of the formula, which must be done in advance.

We must first agree, of course, that the legitimate cost of administration of a library should bear some relation to its conditions of work. Probably no one would quarrel with this, but the first thought of one who considers the subject is generally that a large number of the conditions could, by their very nature, not be susceptible of numerical statement. Such factors as size of circulation, number of books in the collection, number of cardholders, size of building, and so on, may be stated directly in figures, and many such influence the cost of administration; but how, for instance, shall be stated numerically the character of the locality—whether foreign or native-born, wealthy or poor, etc., which also indubitably affects the cost? In this particular case this factor exerts its influence through others that may be numerically stated. So far as it necessitates purchase of foreign books, a foreign population acts to increase cost; so far as the demand for certain classes of books is concerned, cost might be increased or decreased; but size of book collections and circulation are both numerically determinable. It is possible that

\*Presented for discussion at the meeting of the American Library Institute at Niagara Falls, N. Y., September 26, 1912.

†See "The American public library," by the writer; pp. 257, 258.

all conditions which would seem at first sight not to be numerical might reduce in this way, to various numerical factors. Regarding the form of the function to be used for the formula, mathematicians tell me that its determination might prove a great obstacle. Personally, it seems to me that it is probably "linear," that is, involving only the first powers of the quantities concerned, never their squares, cubes, etc. Thus, all other things being equal, increase of book collection, increase of circulation, increase of staff, etc., would approximately mean increase of cost in direct proportion; or, at any rate, not in any way involving powers above the first. I should try, at the outset, therefore, a simple linear formula, such as

$Ax + By + Cz + Du \dots = R$

in which  $x$  might be circulation,  $y$  number of books,  $z$  number in the staff,  $u$  cubic feet in the building, and so on. It would then be required to find values for  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ , etc. This would require, of course, as many equations as there are of these coefficients. To get each equation we select a library that we are willing to accept as being conservatively and properly operated, and substitute for  $x$ ,  $y$ , etc., its reported circulation, number of books, and so on, putting in place of  $R$  its total cost of administration. Solution of this system of equations gives the coefficients,  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , etc., and furnishes the working formula required. Thereafter when we wish to see whether a library is run as conservatively as the typical ones selected, its statistics would be used to substitute for  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , etc., and the value of  $R$  thus obtained would be compared with the actual cost.

The labor of reducing the system of equations would depend on their number, which must equal that of the conditions. This would doubtless be great—possibly 20 or 25, but the work amounts simply to doing a great deal of figuring.

I believe that this thing is worth trying, and I intend to try it myself as soon as I can secure the necessary help in doing the work of figuring, which in any case would not be nearly as great as that done to calculate a comet's orbit.

Physicists and astronomers are daily doing work of this kind, and doing it, too, on subjects regarding which there is quite as much reason to doubt the applicability of the method as in the present case. Why not try it? It admits of satisfactory "proving," for if applied to two groups of libraries with absurdly different results, it would at once be shown to be faulty as so applied.

I believe that we librarians use the experimental method too infrequently. When it is proposed to make some change or other, I constantly hear the objection, "That wouldn't result at all as you expect; it would do so-and-so." But why not try it? Try it and see what happens. That is the only real test. Of course, if trying will cost a large sum, or involve some serious risk, we must count the cost, but in nine cases out of ten nothing is involved but a little extra work.

In this case we are trying our experiments daily—we can't help it. We have libraries running under all kinds of conditions and we have statistical reports of those conditions and of the resulting cost. It is surely worth while to see if we can not connect these costs and these conditions in some useful way.

I venture to close with a parable. At a national meeting of civil engineers there was a discussion of the advisability—and possibility—of ascertaining the exact distance between New York and Chicago. In the course of the discussion it appeared that numerous measurements had already been made for various purposes by different parties and under divers conditions. No two of the results agreed precisely. It was suggested by a speaker that some method of combining the results might be found so as to arrive at a practical working estimate of the distance. Objection was at once made by various members. To many the very idea of such a proposal seemed a bit of pleasantry, and they greeted it with smiles. One speaker poked fun at the idea of treating so practical a question by abstract mathematical methods. Another pointed out that the measurements had been made

with various objects in view; some for railroad purposes, others by government topographers; that instruments of varying makes had been employed and that the surveyors possessed differing grades of ability. He did not see, therefore, how there was any possibility of taking all these into account. Still another thought that the best way to get at the real distance was to send out a questionnaire to persons who had traveled from New York to Chicago and find out their opinions.

It seemed to be the consensus of belief that we should never ascertain the exact distance from New York to Chicago, and that it was extremely doubtful whether there really was any such distance. Probably it varied from time to time, which would account for the varying measurements.

Is it conceivable that engineers would ever balk in this way? It is not.

But we have all heard librarians do so. Why?

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

### An American Glossary

Thornton, Richard H., *An American Glossary*, being an attempt to illustrate certain Americanisms upon historical principles. Philadelphia (Lippincott) and London (Francis & Co.), 1912. 2 vols. Vol. I:A-L; II:M-Z. 990 p. 8 vo.

The author of this remarkable work, an American, member of the Philadelphia Bar and for many years professor of law in the University of Oregon, has provided a reference tool most welcome to all students of American forms of speech and life; a work that will be treasured by librarians, as it brings together in one place a wealth of information most difficult to obtain. This glossary contains some 3,000 words and phrases designated as American, illustrated by some 14,000 citations from American and other literary sources. Every word, or phrase, is given in connection with a series of citations, or quotations, chronologically arranged, serving to elucidate historically its use and its interpretation. The scope includes six kinds of speech form: (1) such as are now obsolete in England but survive in

America; (2) those of distinctly American origin; (3) names of animals or other objects native to America; (4) names of persons or classes of persons; (5) words which have assumed a new meaning; (6) words and phrases used earlier by American than by English writers. One appendix of 20 pages contains selections of typical American writing, another gives the authorities cited in the body of the work—a significant list of sources.

The work plainly is a labor of love. Its subject is practically as boundless as the manifold life activities that called it into existence. Its fascination lies in the types of *life* which become apparent through the recorded manner of speech and of usage. Hence this dictionary lends itself to reading as much as to occasional reference.

Happily, the author makes no distinction between dignified forms and slang forms. To him, language is language, and he is correct in his principle. He might have explored the typical forms of speech of the trades and professions and thereby added to the value of the compilation; on the other hand, he undoubtedly has adduced sources which no one else seems aware of. Chief among these are the contents of the Congressional record, which proved a veritable mine of speech forms strongly typical. Otherwise, examples have been drawn from early travels, sketches of American life, letters and notes in journals, newspapers and novels, etc., etc.

Every page is replete with information, the value of which will be highly appreciated by the reference librarian. The latter may be ready to answer the question, Why does jelly jell?\* but fall down before the query, Why Bourbon whiskey? Or, what is meant by Bowie-knife, bully-boat, claw-hammer, cuttoe, see the elephant, fip, goss, gumbo, heft, hellyon, highbinders, hunkers, Little Giant, macock, nubbin, ox-bow, pone, quahang, riddle-land, roach up, shebang, shinplasters, switchell, etc.? Why Tam-

\*cf. Cornell Reading Course, vol. 1, No. 15, May 1, 1912.

many, Badger State; and what is a thrip?

True, some of these words may be found, with explanations, elsewhere, but the historical principle used by Professor Thornton in elucidating them renders his work doubly valuable in that it brings into view the past and present forms of life which dwell behind these forms of speech and usages of words.

In conclusion, two sources of information supplementary to this work should be noted. One is a critical review of the work which appeared in the *Nation*, July 4, 1912. The other is a book less known than it deserves, namely, "A history of the origin of the place names connected with the Chicago & North Western and the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railways, including states, counties, towns, villages and stations. Chicago, 1908." This useful book of 201 pages was compiled by the venerable auditor of the Chicago & North Western Railroad, Wm. H. Stennett, and appears to be distributed gratis to responsible applicants. J. C. B.

### Papers and Proceedings

#### Ottawa convention, A. L. A., 1912

Conventions are sufficiently accounted for by the instinct of gregariousness, and proceedings are, humanly speaking, inevitable concomitants of conventions, but when such proceedings are printed and "done into a book" it may not be amiss to seek a reason for such extravagance. To say that the printing was necessary in order to preserve the continuous history of the organization is not enough, since the manuscripts of the papers offered, and the secretary's official notes would have accomplished that purpose as well. These notes and papers must have been subjected to the art preservative for some other reason, having regard for the convenience of a larger number of people than would have access to the archives. And these people might desire to consult them, a) for the literary and aesthetic sensations induced by their perusal; or, b), those who were present, in order to recall to their minds the pleasant events and

passages of the gathering, or c) because they embody or comprise, or, at any rate, contain contributions of importance and value to the body of doctrine underlying that professional activity, the common interest in which gave the primary impulse, under the gregarious instinct, to the convention itself.

If, now, we undertake to analyze the printed proceedings of the late A. L. A. conference in the light of these possibilities, we shall be inclined to admit, to ourselves at least, that the reader who resorts to this well printed and dignified volume for literary recreation will be disappointed. These earnest people are far too busy with spreading the influence of real literature to find time for the cultivation of literary graces on their own account. The very earnestness of their several messages leaves no room for aught but the straightforward statement, the categorical defense and the geometrical style which is concerned solely with the shortest distance between two points. And so it comes to pass that, with the shining exceptions of the graceful and daintily embroidered opening address of the president, and the scholarly exposition of our *raison d'etre* by the Librarian of Congress, our Canadian hosts and brethren had rather the best of it on the score of literary excellence. And in this impression the printed page confirms the memory. The stately and beautiful periods of Dr James W. Robertson, even without the music of his Scots tongue; the courtly eloquence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, even without the charm of his picturesque presence; the briefer contributions of many of the others, all intoned with restraint and dignity yet imbued with the spirit of that unfathomable hospitality which showed forth so constantly in their deeds—it is in these, one will be moved to say, that the flavor and savor of literary style was, in the main, made manifest.

As a stimulant and supplement to pleasant recollections we shall be better served by these three hundred and seventy pages. The exhaustive completeness of the record in itself ensures that;

and the advantage of studying at leisure the papers and addresses, some of which were but half heard and others, owing to the numerous attractions and distractions of a physical and frivolous sort, or a multiplicity of meetings, not heard at all, is full warrant for their publication. They gain in value and dignity and most of them are amply able to sustain the scrutiny of the reader's eye. And then there is President Vincent. One is sufficiently grateful for the opportunity of allowing the mind to overtake the ear, and of replacing the mental picture of the overwhelming velocity of the speaker's delivery with the truer one of a scholarly discourse, full of inspiration, suggestion and thought, as well as of wit and scintillating cleverness. And it is pleasant, also, to be able to allay apprehension by adding that the official stenographer proved equal to his task.

Thirdly, as to the contributions of this conference to library science. If these were not considerable, neither were they inconsiderable. The program was wisely built around a single central thought: that of enlisting the interest of the public, on the one hand, in order to ensure better support for the library; on the other, and contingent upon the first, to extend the zone of its influence until it shall comprehend the largest possible proportion of the constituency whence that support must come. Many aspects of this large topic were discussed by many persons. Senator Hatton of Wisconsin, in an enthusiastic address gives a striking illustration of the public's point of view—as indicated by his own—when guided by a real knowledge of the library's mission and possibilities.

The perplexing problem of fitting book purchases to "what the public wants" is considered with eminent and characteristic sanity by the librarian of Buffalo. The library assistant, her (and sometimes his) training, equipment, development and treatment, gave occasion for several excellent addresses, notably that by Mr Strohm of Detroit whose argument for scientific management and the application of some phases of welfare

work to library employees may be noted as a distinct contribution to the subject. Mr Hadley's arraignment of the library schools for their rote and machine systems of training inspired what looks in print like a mild discussion, and supplied the opportunity for a re-affirmation of the true faith, in the formula that all real librarians are the gift of God, and can be neither made nor marred by the schools.

Miss Hazeltine's thoughtful plea to library assistants for more reading and a closer acquaintance with books for their own sake impels the observation that our good mentors do not always bear in mind that our daily task and common round is all with books, about books, of, by and through books and that it might be possible, in carrying books with us into our playtime, to carry them too far.

And so on, each speaker bringing his contribution to the illumination of the general topic. Sometimes, perhaps, program committee and speaker differed as to the true import of a particular title, but in the main and as a whole the printed account of the proceedings of that very full week constitute a real contribution to the thought and practice of library administration, though, perhaps, few of the points at issue were brought much nearer a settlement. And when one adds to the papers of the general sessions those of the numerous sections and special groups, there can be no hesitation in giving this volume full credit on the third count of our specifications.

Time and space are wanting for a fuller notice of the sectional meetings though the diversity of the topics considered gives promise of much material of interest and importance.

The publication of this volume is therefore justified by all of our self-erected standards, and since, in addition, the mechanical and editorial parts of the task have been accomplished with such high intelligence and general excellence, the book is one to be freely commended as worthy of the attention both of those who were present at the conference and those who staid at home.

C. B. R.

### A Reading List for Students

One of the normal schools in the country that is doing effective work in bringing its students into the library is the Kansas state normal school at Emporia. A sample of the effective means in use there is found in the list of books on the following outline, set out in the library where the Normal students pass them:

(Take one) September, 1912

### WORTH WHILE BOOKS

#### List 1

#### Books for over Sunday

These books are on exhibition at the loan desk. Check out any one you wish, on the usual plan. If your choice is taken, ask later. K. S. N. S. library call-number is given. Publisher and price items are for use in buying for school or private libraries. Annotations are from the A. L. A. catalog, 1904-1911.

396 AL5w—Allen, W. H. Woman's part in government, whether she votes or not. 1911. Dodd, \$1.50.

—Outlines the questions of the day on which women's influence can be brought to advantage: philanthropy, hygiene, school, municipal government, public business, etc. Suggestive and practical, though disconnected.

749 D89—Dyer, W. A. Lure of the antique. 1910. Century, \$2.40.

—Attractive and dependable book for collectors and lovers of old furniture, china, brass, pewter, glass, and early American house furnishings in general.

580.7 G83a—Greene, M. L. Among school gardens. 1910. Charities pub. com., \$1.25.

—Reviews work done in educational gardening in the United States, and covers all phases from experimental farms to window boxes. Planting tables for flowers and fruit, and outline showing relations between garden study and other primary school subjects.

92 J555L—Jewett, Sarah Orne. Letters, edited by Annie Fields. 1911. Houghton, \$1.50.

—Simple and informal letters to friends, containing much interesting comment on the literature and writers of the past thirty years, and many charming descriptions of persons and places.

970.5 L57i—Leupp, F. E. The Indian and his problem. 1910. Scribner, \$2.

—Appreciation of Indian character, review of past government dealings, and suggestions for future policies, by the former Commissioner of Indian affairs. Authoritative, unbiased.

239 M42g—Mathews, Shailer. The gospel and the modern man. 1910. Macmillan, \$1.50.

—Undertakes to re-state the Gospel truth in a form which will commend it to the man of today. A sound piece of Christian apologetic, positive, practical, persuasive.

426 M43—Matthews, J. Brander. A study of versification. 1911. Houghton, \$1.25.

—Simple textbook calculated to give an excellent understanding of the mechanism of verse, as a foundation for a better appreciation of poetry. Profitable reading for anyone.

123 P18—Palmer, G. H. The problem of freedom. 1911. Houghton, \$1.25.

—Clear, undogmatic, and fairly popular exposition of the problems of fate, destiny, and free will.

919.8 P32—Peary, R. E. The North pole. 1910. Stokes, \$4.80.

—Peary's account of his final successful expedition in 1909, with extracts from his diary and those of his companions, and descriptions of Eskimo customs.

822 P54h—Phillips, Stephen. Herod: a tragedy in three acts. 1901. Lane, \$1.25.

—Successful drama in stately and beautiful blank verse. Theme, the conflict between Herod's love for his queen and his self-love and ambition.

634.9 S04—Solotaroff, William. Shade trees in towns and cities. 1911. Wiley, \$3.

—Comprehensive work of great practical value, discussing the selection of trees for cities, their planting, protection, diseases, enemies, etc. Illustrations include details of pruning and spraying implements and tree surgery.

917.3 V28s—Van Dyke, Henry. Spirit of America. 1910. Macmillan, \$1.50.

—Addresses delivered at the University of Paris, 1908-1909. They describe the distinguishing qualities of the American spirit and consider its expression in literature, education, and social effort.

#### Fiction

F Au77i—Austin, Mrs. Mary H. Isidro. 1905. Houghton, \$1.50.

—Vigorous tale of romantic adventure in southern California in the old mission days.

F D399i—DeMorgan, W. F. It can never happen again. 1909. Holt, \$1.75. Grosset, 75c.

—Two almost distinct stories of modern English life: the careers of a blind beggar's daughter and of a successful young novelist.

F F237b—Farnol, Jeffrey. The broad highway. 1911. Little, \$1.35.

—A young English gentleman starts on foot to make his fortune rather than comply with the conditions of his uncle's erratic will, and has many romantic adventures.

F G139p—Galsworthy, John. The patrician. 1911. Scribner, \$1.35.

—Strong, virile study of the strength and weakness of England's aristocracy and its influence on English politics and society.

F G461r—Glasgow, E. A. G. Romance of a plain man. 1909. Macmillan, \$1.50. Burt, 50c.

—Story of Richmond, Virginia, after the war, showing the social gulf fixed by aristocratic families between their ranks and the "common people."

F H396t—Henry, O. (pseud.). The trimmed lamp, and other stories of the four million. 1907. Doubleday, \$1.

—Original sketches of New York City life.

F B723L—Little, Frances (pseud.). Lady of the decoration. 1906. Century, \$1.

—Attractive story of a young American teacher's experience in a Japanese mission school, related in letters to home friends.

F P317b—Pearson, E. L. The believing years. 1911. Macmillan, \$1.25.

—Incidents of one summer in the lives of a group of small boys living in a New England town 25 or 30 years ago, sympathetically and whimsically described by one of them.

### A Three-Foot Shelf for a Teacher's Professional Library

Compiled\* by Irene Warren, librarian, School of Education, Chicago

Any collection as limited as this is certain to omit valuable books. These books are offered to the teachers of the elementary and secondary schools, as representative of the educational literature of today, and are indicative of the rapidly

\*For the library exhibit of the Library section of the N. E. A. held in the Chicago public library.

increasing and widening range of educational contributions.

Monroe, Paul, ed.—Cyclopedia of education, v. 1, 1911, Macmillan; Textbook in the history of education, 1905, Macmillan.

Brown, E. E.—The making of our middle schools, 1903. Longmans.

Dutton, S. T., and Snedden, David—The administration of public education in the United States, 1908. Macmillan.

Foght, H. W.—The American rural schools, 1910. Macmillan.

Spencer, Herbert—Education: intellectual, moral and physical, 1900. Appleton.

Fröbel, F. W. A.—The education of man, 1903. Appleton.

Locke, John—Some thoughts concerning education, 1902. Camb. Univ.

Milton, John—Tractate on education, 1883. Camb. Univ.

Pestalozzi, J. H.—Leonard and Gertrude, 1885. Heath.

Rousseau, J. J.—Emile, 1885. Ginn.

Dewy, John—School and society, 1900. Univ. of Chi. Press.

Forbush, E. H.—The coming generation, 1912. Appleton.

Perry, C. A.—The wider use of the school plant, 1910. Charities Pub. Committee.

Scott, C. A.—Social education, 1908. Ginn.

Rugh, C. E. and others—Moral training in the public schools, 1907. Ginn.

Bolton, F. E.—Principles of education, 1910. Scribner.

Bagley, W. C.—The educative process, 1906. Macmillan.

James, William—Talks to teachers on psychology, 1902. Holt.

Judd, C. H.—Genetic psychology for teachers, 1903. Appleton.

Hall, G. S.—Youth, 1906. Appleton.

Kirkpatrick, E. A.—Fundamentals of child study, 1903. Macmillan.

Thorndike, E. L.—Principles of teaching, 1906. Seiler.

Strayer, G. D.—A brief course in the teaching process, 1911. Macmillan.

Bourne, H. E.—Teaching of history and civics in the elementary and secondary schools, 1903. Longmans.

Carlton, F. T.—Education and industrial evolution, 1908. Macmillan.

Carpenter, G. R.; Baker, F. F., and Scott, F. N.—The teaching of English in the elementary and the secondary schools, 1903. Longmans.

Comstock, A. B.—Handbook of nature-study, 1911. Comstock.

Huey, E. B.—The psychology and pedagogy of reading, 1908. Macmillan.

Cornell, W. S.—Health and medical inspection of school children, 1912. F. A. Davis Co.

Palmer, G. H. and A. F.—The teacher, 1908. Houghton.

### Sets of Books in School Libraries

A recent article by Superintendent Keppel of Los Angeles County, Calif., states that more than half the funds set aside annually for country schools for the purchase of library books, is wasted on useless books and maps.

Mr Keppel calls it foolish buying when books are purchased that are never opened, that are unsuitable for children, that are too fine to bear handling by many people, and in the same category he places maps seldom used, charts, etc. Buying books in sets he believes bad and to be abolished. He says further:

It is seldom that all an author's books are read with equal avidity. You will see some of Scott's, Mark Twain's, Dickens', or Thackeray's volumes thumbed and dog-eared before others show any wear at all. Those unused books are a dead waste. They represent just so much capital tied up, when the money might be spent on broken sets of volumes that are world-favorites.

This means a feast and a famine; a superfluity of unnecessarys and a dearth of what we need. It is the spellbinding traveling agent who is largely responsible. If I had my way such persons would not be admitted to the schools.

Some large, profusely illustrated books eat up the library fund in a trice and go to pieces with a little handling. Large charts cost from \$30 to \$50. They have no place in small schools. Cheaper substitutes can be found. In some schools the books aren't kept clean. Open cases admit the dust, and dusty books not only go to pieces fast, but no one likes to read them.

I wish we might break sets more frequently. We want the schools to have everything they need. This is no campaign to deprive them of apparatus. It is simply looking toward sanity in spending public funds.—*Los Angeles Times*.

### Branch Libraries in School Buildings

W. A. Greeson, superintendent of schools in Grand Rapids, Mich., in a recommendation that a suitable room for a branch library be included in the plans for a new school building, has this to say about the presence of the library in the school building:

Where there are no branch libraries, the principal must do the clerical work in connection with giving out the library books, checking them up, seeing that they are returned, collecting fines, etc. The principals report that this takes about 10 per cent of

their time, and this time could be put upon other school work to good advantage.

The pupils of the school where there is a branch library have from their earliest years in school constant training in the use of the card system. The librarian reports that the pupils from these schools have no difficulty whatever in finding what they want when they come to the Ryerson building. This seems to me of great value. Adults often fail to go to a library for assistance because they do not know how to get the knowledge they are seeking. Pupils who are trained in a school where there is a branch library have solved this difficulty at an early age.

The presence of a branch library in a school building makes it possible for the teachers to direct the reading of the children along useful channels. What this means in the education of a child it is difficult to estimate. Nothing is more important than this.

The recommendation of the superintendent in regard to the building was adopted.

### A Library Exhibit

At the Child-welfare exhibition at the Texas state fair

The library exhibit arranged by the libraries of Galveston, Houston, San Antonio and Fort Worth was one of the most interesting departments of the Child welfare exhibition held under the auspices of the Congress of Texas mothers at the Texas state fair, Dallas, October 12—October 27. The exhibit consisted of a model children's room with a library of 550 books. The books were generously furnished by the book department of The Fair, Fort Worth; and the oak stack by H. C. Parker, the Texas representative of the Library Bureau at Dallas. The books were classified and fully cataloged in a dictionary card catalog.

The exhibit was separated from the main exhibition by screens (3x8ft.) canvassed and papered with a soft green oatmeal paper, making a harmonious background for the exhibits from the different libraries which were uniform mounted bulletins 30x34 inches, of medium brown mat board. The bulletins showed the exterior of buildings, interior of children's rooms, views of the story hour at the libraries and on the play-

grounds, with statistics of the opening of the library, number of children's books in the beginning, number of books now in children's department, number of card holders in children's department since opening of library, number of cards now in force, total circulation of children's books since opening of library; total circulation for last fiscal year; per cent fiction; per cent non-fiction; school collections, other agencies used for circulation of books; sample copies of lists of children's books or other publications pertaining to children's department issued by library; use and circulation of picture collections; story hour; subjects, largest, smallest, and average attendance; other means, if any, used to reach the children.

Interesting exhibits were sent by the libraries of Cleburne, Corsicana, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, San Antonio, Terrell, Tyler, Waco and Waxahachie. Bulletins showing the use of picture collections were contributed by Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston and Waco. The Rosenberg library, Galveston, which is noted for its beautiful and artistic children's bulletins, sent a splendid collection. Exhibits were sent from other states by the libraries of New York, Boston, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Newark and Denver.

The last week of the exhibition Miss Whitman of Waco, a charming storyteller, told the following stories under the auspices of the Library department of the Child welfare exhibition:

The coming of Arthur  
The passing of Arthur  
Little Daylight  
The happy Prince  
Uncle Remus story  
The Other Wise Man  
The horse and the olive  
The wonderful weaver  
The quest of Medusa's head

The stories were told each afternoon at four o'clock at the University of Texas auditorium. The auditorium was packed each day long before the story hour began; there was standing room only. Grown ups vied with the children in their eagerness to hear the stories.

J. S. S.

### Interesting Things in Print

Library hand-book, No. 8, issued by the A. L. A. publishing board, contains a paper by William E. Foster, librarian Providence public library, on "How to choose editions."

The Public library of Riverside, Calif., has issued a reading list on Panama Canal, under the sub-title of "An old way to California made new."

A list of recent books for the farm and home has been prepared by Charles R. Green, librarian of the Massachusetts agricultural college, Amherst, for distribution as a part of the library extension work.

The Miami university, Ohio, has issued fac-similes of the catalog of the books contained in the library of Miami university, 1833, and also the "Laws of Miami university for the government of the faculty and students in 1843."

A new effort in the periodical line is to be put forth by a company of interested Chicagoans under the title, "Poetry," a magazine of verse, to be published monthly for the encouragement of the art by a sympathetic public. It will be issued from the Fine Arts bldg., Chicago, at \$1.50 a year.

The American medical association has issued a list of books on prevention of disease, prepared by the committee on public health education among women. Copies can be secured from the American Medical Association, 535 Dearborn avenue, Chicago. Librarians will find helpful suggestions in this pamphlet.

A check list of references on city planning, compiled by the division of bibliography of Library of Congress, and the department on landscape architecture in Harvard university, will be amplified into a bibliography on city planning, which is to be jointly prepared by the same authorities as the check list. In the final bibliography, indications will be made as to the location of material in certain recognized centers of research, such as Washington, Cambridge, Boston, New York and Chicago.

Among the publications sent out in connection with the dedication of the Harper Memorial library, June 11, was a descriptive catalogue of manuscripts in the libraries of the University of Chicago, prepared by Edgar J. Goodspeed, assisted by Martin Sprengling. Not all of the manuscripts in possession of the university are listed, but by far the major portion are included. Early Greek, Latin, Italian manuscripts predominate, but Spanish, German, English, Dutch, Icelandic, Hebrew and Arabic are represented. Later personal and miscellaneous manuscripts of much interest are also included.

A paper by Edward W. Mumford, of the Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia, on "Juvenile readers as an asset," before the American booksellers' association, last May, has been issued in pamphlet form. The spirit of the paper is fine and the presentation is practical and helpful. "Choosing books for girls and boys" is another pamphlet by the same author.

These may be had from the Penn Publishing Company on application, free of charge.

A. C. McClurg & Co. have issued a "Classified library catalog," covering all classes, brought down to include books for the past year. A subject index adds value to the volume. Books from all publishers are included and the publishers' prices are given. There are approximately about 4,500 titles. The juvenile books are separated from the others. This section was arranged under suggestions from "two of the leading children's librarians of the country."

#### Library Club Programs for the Year

The Chicago library club has issued its program for the year, giving the names of the speakers and the titles of their addresses for the eight months of the period during which the meetings are held.

The library assistants' association of England has also issued its program for the eighteenth season of its meetings. The topics for discussion deal mostly with practical library matters, and the

speakers are for the most part those who are in active library service.

An interesting point in the work of the Assistants' association is what they term their Easter school, which last year comprised a visit to the libraries of Paris, and this year, March 20-24, will include a journey to several cities of Holland.

The program for the year is a most interesting one.

A recent number of the *Nashville Banner* contained an illustrated article on the Tennessee library commission, by Mrs Pearl Williams Kelly, secretary of the Tennessee library commission. A general resumé of the work accomplished as well as the outlook for the future growth in library service in Tennessee is very interestingly given. Traveling libraries, school libraries, public libraries, etc., were illustrated in an interesting manner.

#### Package Libraries

The extension division of the University of Wisconsin is engaged among its many other activities in the compilation and circulation of package libraries. The fact that this work is in charge of Mr F. A. Hutchins, for a long time secretary of the Wisconsin library commission, would indicate that it is a variation of the traveling library idea. Mr Hutchins has an able assistant in Miss A. L. Scott.

The package library is composed of specially prepared bulletins, carefully chosen magazine articles, newspaper clippings, association and federal reports upon specific subjects. It is sent in response to a request from within the state, the borrower paying express one way.

The subjects cover a wide field of knowledge, as it is needless to say these packages cover only serious topics. Social science, economics, good roads, conservation, morals and ethics in all their phases are embraced. There have been numerous calls in the last few months for documents bearing on political questions, as well as questions of state government and federal relations.

In the year, June, 1911-June, 1912, there were 2,450 of these packages sent out to 213 different localities.

### Mid-Winter Meetings

The usual mid-winter meetings will be held in Chicago, January 1-4, 1913. The League of library commissions will hold meetings probably on Wednesday and Thursday, January 1 and 2. The A. L. A. council will meet Thursday morning and Friday morning, January 2 and 3. Library school instructors will meet Thursday afternoon, January 2. College and university librarians of the Middle-West will meet Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, January 3 and 4. The librarians of normal schools of the Middle-West are planning for a meeting to discuss problems pertaining to their particular work. This meeting will be held Friday afternoon, January 3. The executive board of the A. L. A. will meet Wednesday evening, January 1, and the A. L. A. publishing board on Wednesday afternoon. The Chicago library club will probably entertain visiting librarians on Thursday evening. The above dates are all subject to minor changes. Further details and more definite announcements will be made in the *Bulletin* of the A. L. A., which will appear the first part of December. The mid-winter meetings of the present year were attended by 121 library workers, representing 19 states, the District of Columbia, and two provinces of Canada. It is hoped that the attendance this year will be even better.

GEORGE B. UTLEY.

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### Library Department of Michigan Teachers' Association

At a meeting of the Michigan state teachers association, held in the Ryerson library, Grand Rapids, November 1, the program of the library department presented a number of interesting topics. "State and library aids in securing and selecting books" was presented by Fanny D. Ball, Central high school, Grand Rapids; "The correlation of the library with English composition," by Mary A. Newberry, reference department, New York Public library; "The Michigan pioneer, with available collections, for the story hour and history," by Mrs M. B. Fer-

rey, Lansing; "Some standards for the selection of poetry and pictures in the grades," by Oliver G. Frederick, supervisor of grades, Detroit.

Miss Ball, in presenting her paper, made use of a printed list of "Library and state aids for the selection of books," divided under Library aids, State aids, Aids for pictures and illustrative matter, and Publishers' catalogs. It was intended for teachers, rather than for librarians, and it may be secured for a stamped self-addressed envelope sent to Miss Ball.

A set of resolutions presented by Mr Arbaugh, superintendent of schools, Ypsilanti, were unanimously adopted. The resolutions were as follows:

Whereas, since the position of school librarian, in many places, is not yet recognized as requiring the educational qualifications, nor is recompensed with the salary of that of teachers, and

Whereas, the demands made upon such a position, its possible value to educational growth, its educational breadth, its executive ability, its teaching possibilities, and its direction of reading as culture, are equal to the responsibilities of any other teacher, be it therefore

Resolved, that the Library section of the Michigan State teachers' association express itself as recognizing the educational value and growth of library work, and, when such work involves teaching the use of books as tools, directing the policy of the library, selecting largely the books forming the library, that the position be recognized as equivalent to that of supervisor of any other special subject; or, at least to that of a high-school teacher of the local system.

Mr Arbaugh, superintendent of schools, Ypsilanti, was elected president of the section for the ensuing year and David Heineman of Detroit, secretary.

FLORENCE M. HOPKINS,  
Chairman.

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### Civil Service Examinations for Illinois

The Illinois state civil service commission will hold examinations at various points over the state on December 14, for positions of library assistant and librarian in the state service. Full information regarding these examinations and application blanks may be secured by addressing W. R. Robinson, secretary of the State civil service commission, Springfield, Ill.

## Illinois Library Association

St. Louis meeting, October 24-26, 1912

## Minutes

The seventeenth annual meeting was held at St. Louis, Missouri, Thursday to Saturday, October 24-26, 1912, in joint session with the Missouri library association in the Central library assembly room.

The meeting was called to order by the president, J. C. M. Hanson, at 10:10 a. m. on Thursday.

The secretary's report was presented and adopted. Minutes as printed in the official organ, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, for November, 1911, were presented for approval without reading. Members with dues paid were reported at the beginning of the meeting as 79, but many paid during the meeting so as to bring the membership up to 108.

The treasurer's report was presented, read and referred to an auditing committee which reported as follows:

## Receipts

Cash on hand, October, 1911.....	\$212.91
Dues, 1911 and 1912.....	79.00

\$291.91

## Disbursements

Sundry expenses (noted).....	\$ 77.16
October, 1912, cash on hand.....	214.75

\$291.91

Above report audited and found correct.

(Signed) George B. Utley,  
Ellen Gale,  
H. G. Wilson.

The legislative committee presented its report through J. H. Freeman in the absence of the chairman and on motion it was

Resolved, That the report be read and discussed at the Trustees' section on Friday afternoon.

After the discussion in the Trustees' section upon motion it was

Resolved, That the tentative report of the Legislative committee be accepted and handed over to an incoming committee to be appointed by the chairman for use and final action.

In pursuance of this motion, the President appointed the following committee:

H. G. Wilson, Chicago, chairman.

J. L. O'Donnell, Joliet.

J. H. Freeman, Aurora.

A. J. Perry, Galesburg.

Mrs Murry Nelson, Winnetka.

Mabel Thain, Oak Park.

Nellie Parham, Bloomington.

The election of officers resulted in the election of the nominees of the council, no other nominations being offered.

President, P. L. Windsor, Urbana; vice-president, Mrs Rena M. Barickman, Joliet; secretary, F. K. W. Drury, Urbana; treasurer, Minnie A. Dill, Decatur; councilors with terms to expire in 1915, James Shaw, Aurora; Mary B. Lindsay, Evanston.

The secretary presented an invitation from the Chicago Association of Commerce to hold the next annual meeting in that city. The matter was referred to the incoming council.

Miss M. E. Ahern, as an accredited delegate, brought greetings to the two associations from the Indiana library association, from whose annual meeting she had just come.

The committee on resolutions reported on Saturday and its recommendations were adopted, as follows:

Resolved: That this joint meeting of the Missouri and Illinois library associations has afforded to the members of this association an unusual opportunity to draw inspiration and renewed zeal from their hosts of a sister state. They would hereby record their sincere appreciation of the hearty welcome accorded them in coming to St. Louis, and of the courtesies extended on the part of the friends and officers of the librarians of the city and especially of the administrative heads and staff of the Public library. They would express the hope that the future will offer opportunities for the renewal of these pleasant associations.

Charles J. Barr, Chairman.  
Albert J. Perry,  
Elizabeth H. Burnside.

The seventeenth annual meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

F. K. W. DRURY,  
Secretary.

## Trustees' section

The Illinois library trustees association, forming a section of the Illinois library association, met on Friday after-

noon, at 2:30 p. m., with Miss Allin, the secretary, in the chair.

The report of the legislative committee was received consisting of the minutes of the meeting held in Chicago on August 1, when a section was unanimously approved providing that the library board of any municipality maintaining a free public library might, by contract, grant the use of its library to the people of neighboring municipalities on terms mutually satisfactory to the said library board and to the council of the contracting municipality.

A letter was read from J. L. O'Donnell, president of the Trustees association and chairman of the Legislative committee, regretting his inability to attend the meeting and suggesting that the committee be authorized and empowered to prepare and present proposed legislation. This legislation ought to cover the participation of outlying settlements adjacent to cities in the benefits of city libraries.

Also an amendment to enable library boards to present the amount of the appropriation needed for support to the council and binding the council to the amount of this levy; another amendment preventing the city treasurer from collecting a percentage on library tax by exempting library funds.

This report was followed by a discussion by those present and upon motion it was: Resolved, To recommend to the Illinois library association that the work of the legislative committee be turned over to a new committee to be appointed by the chairman to carry to completion with power to present same to the coming session of the legislature.

After the report of the secretary and treasurer, officers were re-elected, with the exception of S. S. Greeley, who resigned from the executive board and in whose place E. C. Parsons of Dixon was elected.

EUGENIA ALLIN,  
Secretary.

**Papers presented**

At the first joint session, Mr Blackwelder, president of the Missouri library association, presided. He introduced

first Dr A. E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, who gave a cordial address of welcome. Mr Hanson, president of the Illinois library association, responded. W. L. R. Gifford, librarian of the St. Louis Mercantile library, added his welcome to the city. N. D. C. Hodges, librarian of the Cincinnati public library and ex-president of the American library association, was called upon for greetings and he gave reminiscences of F. M. Crunden, the first librarian of the St. Louis public library, and the only one to hold that position until Dr Bostwick's appointment.

The only formal paper of the morning was that of George B. Utley, secretary of the American library association, who, as its representative at the meeting, spoke on "How the American library association can help."

George B. Utley, secretary of the American library association, spoke on the subject, "How the American library association can help." He called attention to the work of headquarters as a supply house for general library information, to the valuable work rendered in the past and still being performed by various committees, to the work done in helping librarians secure positions, and trustees and chief librarians in filling vacancies in their staffs, and to the effort the association makes in informing the world at large regarding librarians and their work, the importance and dignity of it and the need to have experienced workers in places of importance.

Professor John Livingston Lowes of Washington university on Thursday evening delighted his audience with his address, entitled:

**Shakespeare's response to what the public wants**

Professor Lowes said that there were three important things to consider in studying Shakespeare. First, the playwright's public; second, the playwright himself; third, what his public wanted.

The playwright's public was small. London itself had only one hundred and twenty-five thousand population; the theater was closely packed with a motley

crowd surrounding a stage which projected out into the midst. This closeness of the audience must always be remembered.

Secondly, we are bent on idealizing Shakespeare, but we must remember that he was human, that he was, first, an actor and then a manager, being a shareholder and proprietor of the Globe theater. It was important that the plays should be a success; that the theater should be filled. He did not write for posterity, but he wrote to please the public who would pay to see the plays.

Then, thirdly, what did the public want? They wanted what they were familiar with. There were vogues in those days also and we find in Shakespeare a different response to different vogues. First, we find the old Spanish plays filled with revenge and ghosts, insanity and blood. He gave them this and then something more. He gave them all this in Hamlet, where he follows their wants and at the same time leads.

Elizabethans of those days loved to talk and Euphues is an illustration where three or four characters spend their time in endless talk. "Love's labor lost" follows this fashion, it was written by Shakespeare to please the public, but it did not please himself.

He then issued another crowded and complicated plot in "Two gentlemen of Verona" and shortly he doubled the complexity and gave the public his "Comedy of errors"; but finally he came back in a play to please himself and the public as well in "Much ado about nothing."

A third vogue of those days were the chronological history plays which found favor from 1580 to 1600. Ten of Shakespeare's out of thirty-seven which have come down to us may be classified under this head with "Henry VI" as the best known. These chronological plays had one single dominating figure and we can see as the outgrowth of this, the tragedies founded on British and Roman history, "Macbeth" and "Lear"; "Julius Caesar," "Antony and Cleopatra" and "Coriolanus."

The fourth vogue which we find is the romance in which he followed Beau-

mont and Fletcher and in this group we find "Cymbeline," "A winter's tale" and "The tempest."

Shakespeare worked over the older plays. He drew upon what his audience was familiar with, and he was successful when he chose what both he and the public liked. He used stage devices that were known to be successful, but he balks at the tastes and tendencies to which he could not respond. He did not pander to the salacious in his audiences and the greatness of the man lies in that he dared to avoid this.

The plays of the time depicted the seamy side of life. This was never introduced by Shakespeare except with realism as a foil to nobility.

What response then do we find in the plays of today to what the public wants? First, we find that the public wants to be amused. It is jaded and blasé and the plays are written on the sleepy giant theory. Secondly, the public wants a touch of sentiment. It always thrills at two lovers sighing to each other in the spot light. This is the raw protoplasm of Tristan and Isolde.

Third, the public wants to be thrilled, to be moved in some way. We find the plays of today either pander to the public taste or shoot over its head and we find it flocking to the poor ones, while dramatic leagues are organized to get an audience for the better. A great drama is not esoteric but will make its first appeal to what the whole public wants. And the public wants more than it thinks it wants. The dramatist of today must accept the public's vehicle and build upon it as we find from this study, Shakespeare did.

On Friday morning a book symposium gave great pleasure because of the variety of subjects discussed and the pleasing manner in which they were brought out.

Miss M. Crocker of St. Louis spoke of Spanish Gold, a novel by Hannay, a romance to be read and then to be forgotten.

Miss Dunbar of Macomb spoke of "Bill, the minder" by Robinson, a book for boys, a book for mothers and a book

for teachers. Miss F. Fordice of Se-  
dalia, Missouri, presented the wonderful  
description of nature found in the "Yo-  
semite" by John Muir, while Miss Lane  
of Freeport, Illinois, extracted amusing  
comments from "Your United States" by  
Arnold Bennett.

Miss Baker of Columbia, Missouri,  
recommended the translation of Wag-  
ner's *Nibelungen* by Oliver Huckel and  
Miss Miles of Centralia, Illinois, con-  
cluded the symposium with a review of  
the Montessori method in education.

Following the symposium, library leg-  
islation was brought to the fore.

Mrs Murry Nelson, a trustee of the  
Winnetka (Ill.) public library, read the  
draft of the "Ideal library law" which  
had been prepared by Mr S. S. Greeley  
of the library board of that library but  
which ill health prevented him from pre-  
senting in person. The ideal law con-  
sisted of two parts: First, the State  
library and the state commission law;  
and second, the Public library law. The  
chairmen had prepared beforehand a  
summary of the present Missouri and  
Illinois library laws in parallel columns  
and with this in hand the delegates were  
able to follow the provisions in Mr Gree-  
ley's draft. Mr Greeley presented a  
strong argument in favor of a new state  
law which would put the state library of  
Illinois at the head of the library work  
of the state instead of delegating it to  
another body while it remains in a state  
of innocuous desuetude. He advocated  
also a new municipal library law which  
would divide the cities and towns of the  
state into four classes, based on popula-  
tion, for library tax purposes. He gave  
an outline of the powers and limitations  
of library boards, advocated a township  
law giving rural communities power to  
tax themselves for the support of munic-  
ipal libraries in exchange for library  
privileges, power to buy, sell or hold real  
estate and other property. The proposed  
law was discussed by Miss Ahern, H. G.  
Wilson of Chicago and others.

Purd B. Wright of Missouri sent

**A thought or two on library legislation**  
which in his absence was read by Mr C.  
E. Rush of St. Joseph.

Mr Wright said in part: "Any one  
who really gives a little time to a careful  
study of the subject will be forced to ad-  
mit that library legislation has not kept  
pace with the progressive age—with the  
rapid advance in all things relating to  
human welfare matters. Whether  
through lack of concerted action on the  
part of library workers, or what in some  
other work would be called the proper  
spirit, there has been no real broad prog-  
ress in recent years in public library  
law. Library work is extending by leaps  
and bounds, but every improvement in  
methods, every expansion in new direc-  
tions, is at the expense of brain and  
blood of enthusiasts working with worn-  
out tools and with cents instead of dol-  
lars.

We have not fought as we should—  
have not taken the matter to the people,  
openly and bravely, and demanded a  
hearing, and our reward is the reward  
to the timid—forgetfulness.

The library, in its zeal for the public  
good, has been one of the great factors  
for the dissemination of information in  
the propaganda of "government by and  
for the people," and yet the first results  
of one of the greatest steps to this end  
—the commission form of government  
for cities—has been an actual set-back  
to the library itself. Where would the  
schools be if coupled in second or third  
place under even an admirable street  
commissioner, or tax collector, or park  
superintendent? If not the schools, why  
handcuff the library?

The library has again been the means  
of extending the knowledge of political  
civil service and again, to the initiated, it  
would appear that it will be used to li-  
brary hurt. It is not necessary to go  
deeply into this phase of the question  
here, but any one who is interested in  
knowing my position in the matter may  
find it in the *Library Journal* for Octo-  
ber, 1906. My opinion has not changed.  
Experience has strengthened it.

The schools as a rule have been left  
outside the general civil service law. Is  
school work so different from library  
work? Are school people better fighters  
than library workers? Do they have more

spirit? Or is it only that they are better organized?

At this minute the library in one of the most beautiful and progressive cities in the United States is likely to be deprived of its board of directors and placed at the end of a paragraph under parks, libraries and recreations, under one man, deprived of its hard-earned four-tenths of a mill tax, and choked in an iron collar of civil service. All this, too, just as it was learning to walk in its new clothes, and to breathe freely. The real hurt comes when it is known that this is occurring under what was to be offered as the model city charter, prepared by a committee of the National municipal league after months of study by city experts, aided by local enthusiasts who know nothing of library needs.

Municipal ownership of public utilities, including waterworks, electric lighting plants, street railways, municipal railroads, gas? Of a verity. Initiative, referendum and recall? Surely! Progress for everything except the library. It is pushed into a corner—the darkest corner.

When real work on the model charter is started, the bolder spirits will demand:

- 1) A separate law, as in the case of school boards, with
- 2) a directorate of five members, either elected on a non-partisan ticket, or appointed by different authorities (two by the school board, two by the mayor and council and one by a designated commercial organization of high standing) with five-year terms, all subject to recall;
- 3) with a direct tax-levying and bond issuing power surrounded by such essential restrictions as control school boards;
- 4) required to enact such civil service regulations as will best promote service to the public;
- 5) empowered to erect buildings, cooperate with school boards, welfare societies, institutional churches and boards in any way, and especially in the planning, erection and maintenance of social center buildings under one roof—many buildings in one—but serving every person according to his needs, and the ex-

pense divided proportionate to space occupied.

The day of the expensive school building, used 1,200 hours a year out of a possible 8,760 is passing. So also the branch library, used half time only. In their places is coming the community building—subject to use by its owners as they wish. In this will be included, of course, at slight additional expense, the branch library. The owners need only to be shown—as they are being shown in every other branch of human welfare work, what to do—and they will do it. Why should the library lag, or be left in the rear through inertia?"

At conclusion of this paper a vote was given Mr Wright in token of appreciation of his paper. Also a vote of greeting was ordered sent to Mr Greeley from the two associations thanking him for the outline he had prepared and regretting his absence.

#### Reference section

At the reference section, Friday afternoon, Charles J. Barr of Chicago presented a paper entitled "The field of the purely reference library."

This he divided into two branches: specialization and coöperation. Speaking especially from the viewpoint of the endowed reference library (as distinguished from the university, state, proprietary, and industrial) coöperation came in the form of answers to questions and loans to other libraries. In finding the answers the problem immediately at hand is to find out where the information can best be secured and this is now taking form in union card catalogs, in serial lists, etc.

Lorena Webber of Jacksonville, Illinois, next presented the problem of "The clubwoman," who sought and asked much aid. The library might mail a copy of the bibliographies compiled to the reader of the paper. Better coöperation is secured if the librarian is consulted as to the club program.

Philip S. Goulding of the University of Illinois, next read his paper entitled: "The classification of literatures in the University of Illinois library," showing

how the Classics, then German and now Romance have been reclassified by special schemes to suit the work of the departments, chiefly by discarding the form divisions of literature and arranging authors alphabetically in large periods.

Other subjects presented for discussion were "Index to illustrations" and "The cameragraph."

The children's section, at 4 p. m. Friday afternoon, attracted a large audience to hear Percival Chubb of St Louis on:

#### The child, the school and the library

Mr Chubb said it was necessary for all workers to see their work in the large, as the school, in relation to all the other agencies, but that it was difficult to maintain this outlook. Of the various agencies for children we find the home, the family, the school, the playground and the library among the most important. Two of these are new institutions, viz., the children's library and the supervised playground. We are witnessing in this day the disintegration of the home and the family, hence these two new institutions are arising. It is a tremendous fact in the history of civilization. We are loading the reading and the play of the child on others. The parent is disappearing and the school is staggering under the burden. The teacher and the librarian must be careful and scrupulous not to usurp the functions to be found elsewhere. There must be interplay of institutions.

The important feature in our modern institutions is the selective or protective education and environment for the young. Rousseau in his "Emile" isolated his child. This, we believe, is a mistake. But it is not a mistake to isolate the child in groups. We must protect the child against the common, the vulgarizing and the cheap. We must protect him against any agency which overstimulates, making him prematurely old, or a "smarty." We must protect by selective literature against what is common, such as the Sunday comic supplement, which, if it cannot be abolished, can at least be improved. We must protect by the quality of our literature, choosing our children's books with care. We are to-

day the victims of commercialism and books for children are being issued which can induce only mental and moral dyspepsia. Not every book should go upon our library shelves but only those which go to make fine taste, fine manners and a fine brain.

Mr Chubb recommended that children's libraries have only 100 or at the most 200 titles, but these of the very best and many copies of them. With these and no others will it be possible for the children to feed on great things.

The function of the library as distinct from the school is consultative. This must be done with care but it must be the aim to give the child an inkling of the great world of books.

The high school today monopolizes the time of the boys and girls. This is wrong and the library should be among the first to protest. The school should make the child read scrupulously but none the less for enjoyment, leading on to the reading of great books with its culmination in the family reading circle, where not only reading, but songs and story telling, games and all the oral literature of the world should be enjoyed.

The last formal address was on Friday evening when Henry E. Legler of Chicago, president of the American library association, delivered his talk.

#### From title-page to colophon

This was flavored with the love of a bibliophile for his books and was divided into three main groups as he discussed the physical, intellectual and emotional booklover as typified in the Bibliotaph, the Bibliograph, and the Bibliomaniac.

The Dibdinite was a maniac on the physical make-up, searching out the typographical errors and peculiarities which distinguish one edition from another.

The dedication was a fruitful source of interest as showing the author's real feeling, and Mr Legler illustrated this by many selections. From dedications the speaker passed to forms of verse, especially the archaic Provencal, such as the rondeau, of which several examples were read.

The cult of Omar next received attention. Of the Rubaiyat, 200 editions

have appeared in the last 15 years and over 1,000 titles bear testimony to the interest of this poem. By comparison with many translations that of Edward Fitzgerald was shown to be still the best.

Of bibliomaniacs, Eugene Field was thought to be a type, while Charles Lamb was spoken of as the perfect bibliophile.

In conclusion, Mr Legler thought it better to know one book well than many superficially. The thought beautiful in the book beautiful is a symbol of the world beautiful.

The paper which was the keynote of Saturday morning's program was by C. H. Talbot, municipal reference librarian, Kansas City.

#### The work of the municipal reference libraries

An effort to make the action of government more intelligent and efficient has been running along side by side with the movement for good government. Examples of this are familiar; such as the work of commissions, of special research and investigation and of legislative and municipal reference departments.

The legislative reference idea may be summed up in one word "Light." It is not to stand for or against a measure, and above all things, not to be made a political tool, but simply to get the facts and to let the facts speak for themselves.

There are eight cities which have municipal reference libraries. Books, magazine and newspaper clippings and reports are not enough. They must be in touch with the officials and other public spirited citizens in other cities.

This whole movement for legislative reference work is a part of the great social awakening which has expressed itself in a multitude of forms, all of which are working to the end that this nation, these states and these cities shall be a good place to live in.

Specific instances were cited when the work of various state and city legislative reference libraries had been of great aid and influence in drafting bills and saving the states and cities from expending funds unwisely.

The discussion was opened by James

Cunningham, librarian of the School of Mines, at Rolla, Mo. He emphasized the need of up-to-date information, correspondence with experts and that the man in charge be competent to handle information and men. The municipal reference work is "Scientific methods applied to government."

A. L. Bostwick, in charge of the Municipal reference branch of the St. Louis public library, followed with an interesting account of the work in St. Louis. Again the importance of correspondence was emphasized, the exchange of the documents and reports of the city is now a function of this branch. "To perform the duties of the municipal reference branch properly, it must be not only a library, but a bureau of information, statistics and research."

Henry E. Legler, librarian of the Chicago public library, was asked to tell about the function of the Civics room which is located in the Chicago public library. They have books, magazines and newspaper clippings on municipal affairs, economics, political science, education and business. The books are few in comparison with the other sources of information.

There are over 100 different civic societies in Chicago and they appreciate this room. The Association of Commerce has had investigators at work for months. The expense of collecting the material is slight. It is made up of duplicate pamphlets and clippings from extra copies of periodicals along these lines.

A separate room for high school students, to be known as the Debate room, is now planned.

Mr Legler then took the chair and assisted by Miss M. E. Ahern conducted the question box. The questions were numerous and from libraries large and small, public and university. The discussions were participated in by all and then cleverly summed up by Mr Legler and Miss Ahern.

All too soon Paul Blackwelder, president of the Missouri library association announced the hour for the adjournment of the joint meeting of the Illinois and Missouri library associations.

**Social features**

The entertainment committee of the Missouri library association provided guides for each registered attendant, a service which was greatly appreciated.

On Thursday afternoon, the libraries of St. Louis provided a trolley ride around the city from 2 until 4. A stop was made at the Cabanné branch of the Public library and the tour ended at the home of Mrs. Carpenter, who received in honor of the occasion. Mr Carpenter is the president of the St. Louis public library board.

On Thursday evening a brief reception was held in the art room of the Public library and after the address of Professor Lowes small parties were despatched in an inspection of the building. Dancing and refreshments were also features of the evening.

Friday noon all delegates were given luncheon in the staff and children's rooms of the central library building.

On Thursday evening, the Illinois library school alumni enjoyed a dinner at the Jefferson, covers being laid for 17.

The attendance register for Illinois records 94 librarians and interested persons.

F. K. W. DRURY,  
Secretary I. L. A.

**Ohio Library Association**

The eighteenth annual convention of the Ohio library association was held at Newark, Oct. 21-24, 1912.

Monday afternoon was devoted to the first small libraries session. Beatrice Kelly of Steubenville discussed "Selection of fiction for a small library," emphasizing the difference of standards of choice between the town whose readers are largely of the leisure class, and the town where the tired engrossed workingmen compose the largest reading element. In selection of books choose first for education, and second, fiction. The bulk of the patrons linger at the fiction shelf. Consider the wants of the people, of what they are capable, and then take into consideration the book itself. In limiting financial expenditure, don't cut

down the books in the department where most of the people go.

Mr Hirshberg, Cleveland public library discussed in part his list of "Suggested reference books for a small library," giving the nature and relative value of each book very clearly. This list is very helpful especially to the librarian who must choose her books from catalogs alone, and it may be obtained for 10 cents from Mirpah G. Blair, O. S. U. library, Columbus, O.

The first general session, Monday evening, opened with an address of welcome by C. W. Montgomery, president of the Newark library board, and a response by Miss Burnite, president of the O. L. A. Mrs Pauline Steinem, representing the Ohio Federation of women's clubs, chose as her subject, "The signification of the woman's movement," cleverly surveying woman's development from early times to the present. A reception followed.

At the opening of the small libraries session, Tuesday morning Miss G. M. Walton, librarian of Michigan normal college, Ypsilanti, read a delightful paper on "The friendly book." "We are admonished not to put new wine into old bottles, but fortunately there is no admonition against old wine in new bottles—and friendliness is certainly the richest of wine both in men and in books. I believe we all love best to mark the passing years by the friends they bring us, and it were a barren year that brings not one more friend, and so with our friendly books, which like all friendships fill our lives with genial warmth and gratitude. Among the oldest and dearest of my friendly books is the *Life and letters of Lord Macaulay*. I have continued reading for nearly 35 years the *life of Bishop Wilberforce*, undoubtedly for 25 years the greatest figure in the English church. And *Thackeray*, there is no one book which stands for him, save, perhaps, the dear little old brown volume of letters to the *Brookfields*. Finally it is my most cordial hope that we may all turn our attention more and more with restful, tender, and grateful hearts to our blessed friendly books."

Mr Hirshberg followed with the second part of his discussion of reference books, after which the Trustees section withdrew to take up questions of library support, proportionate expenditure for services and books, library hours for opening, the librarian's schedule and vacation, etc., under the direction of Washington T. Porter, chairman.

Mary E. Downey gave the report of the Committee on inter-relation of libraries, emphasizing especially the exchange of duplicate magazines and of such tools as special lists, indexes, etc. This committee exhibited at the convention bulletins and picture posters which may be borrowed upon application to the committee.

On Tuesday the members of the association were the guests of Dennison university at Granville.

At the general session Tuesday evening, Dr F. L. Heeter, superintendent of the Pittsburgh schools, spoke on "Old-fashioned and new fashioned education," exposing many fallacies of modern education, and urging that training of health, head, hand, and heart must constitute the newer, broader aim. The library of the new day must recognize the changed conditions to find its true place. It must carry to the homes a larger education than the schools can provide.

Wednesday morning opened with the report of Miss Downey, state library organizer, in which she gave a summary of her four years' work as far as statistics can show: 804 visits; met board members 194 times; made 154 addresses; tax support levied for 51 libraries; 40 new buildings completed, under construction, or promised; 24 libraries have new rooms provided for their use; standard charging systems installed in 38 libraries; 51 libraries classified, labeled, and arranged; accessioning supervised in 18 libraries; 35 librarians attended summer schools; 76 students in long course schools; 5 state institution libraries organized; 24 district meetings held, the whole attendance numbering 676; 29 addresses given before teachers' institutes.

Mr Root then moved the adoption of the following resolution, which was carried:

The librarians of Ohio, in convention assembled, desire to affirm their conviction that the library agencies of the state, as a part of its educational system, ought not to be affected by changes made for political reasons.

We desire in particular, to express to Miss Mary E. Downey our regret at the loss of her services to the state. We put on record our great appreciation of her wise and effective work and hope that her future field of labor will be within the borders of our state.

Mr Brett moved that the report of the library organizer be adopted, and that the secretary be instructed to send a copy to the Ohio library commission, with a copy of Mr Root's resolution. Carried.

The report of the Legislative committee was given by Mr Brett, who outlined plans for legislation putting libraries on a sounder basis as a part of the general educational system, providing improved methods of taxation for county libraries, and old age pensions for librarians.

Miss Blair reported that the association now consists of 431 active members, 2 life, 6 associate, 10 club, and 8 library members.

In giving "Some standard novels for a small library,"\* Miss Collman of Cincinnati recalled many old favorites to memory with apt description and interesting comment.

Miss Smith, Cleveland, took up in detail "Some less known novels for a small library," dividing them into groups of subjects, and presenting a helpful and suggestive list.

#### The college section

George F. Strong, chairman of the section, called separate meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

The first paper concerned "The instruction of students in the use of the library," by S. J. Brandenburg. He briefly outlined the one hour course in library methods given at Miami university during the current year. The

\*Miss Collman's paper will appear later in  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

course is to give the students a working knowledge of the use of the library through lectures and accompanying problems. Mr Strong gave a talk about the work, with the students, on library methods at Adelbert college. Prof R. B. Miller of Ohio Wesleyan spoke of two lectures given on cataloging and reference work in a course called "Orientation" given the current year before the freshmen. A department of bibliography giving three courses is listed at the Ohio State university, but only two of these are given. In the College of agriculture, six sections, with different problems, form the course in library methods.

The second problem, "The encouragement of gifts," by Mrs Kate Shepard-Hines, emphasized the necessity of reaching the alumni as possible donors at commencement time or better yet through the college publications. It was noted that the non-graduate alumni form a very enthusiastic body to whom appeal may be made, and also that the gifts to a college library are always of value and meet a certain demand. Mrs Hines spoke of completing old files of college publications, of demanding one bound volume of every publication issued by the students, and of expecting copies of books edited or written by alumni to be donated. A discussion followed concerning the acknowledgment of gifts, such as a short notice in the annual report of the library, making a special book-plate showing the donor, the admirable nuisance of placing books in special alcoves, and marking the outside labels.

Following this came the discussion of "Methods in binding and repairing" by Florence Dunham. Reinforced bindings, books bought in publishers' bindings and rebound, those bought in the sheets and bound by Chivers came up for special notice.

In the second College session, C. W. Reeder was chosen chairman for the coming year and Miss Hammond secretary. A motion for time for the meeting of the College section without conflict hereafter with other meetings of the as-

sociation was carried, and continuity of plans for the College section as a help to the small libraries was discussed.

The next problem to be taken up was "The employment of student assistants," given by Miss Orr. Methods of choosing assistants, work assigned and compensation were brought up.

The next problem for discussion was given by C. W. Reeder with the subject "Reference work for the Ohio constitutional convention," giving an outline of the work done during the sessions of the Fourth Ohio constitutional convention, in Columbus, 1912.

"Record and exchange of duplicates," by A. S. Root constituted the third problem presented. The plan of procedure in the treatment of records was outlined and methods of disposal of duplicates given.

Mrs Adaline Merrill's "A recent bibliography" was a discussion of the A. L. A. Catalog, 1904-1911.

A. S. Oko, in his paper, "A recent work in philosophy," gave a review of Fritz Mauthner's "Beiträge zu einer kritik der sprache" and his "Wörte buch der philosophie."

A report was given by Mr Brandenburg on the A. L. A. meeting at Ottawa, emphasizing Mr Jowett's paper, "Proportion of university library income for administration," and Mr Drury's suggestion for a Short-story index.

#### General session

At the general session Wednesday afternoon Dr A. S. Root reported the work of the Library and school committee. After correspondence on the subject with Ohio colleges and normal schools, the committee made the following recommendations:

1. That the committee be instructed during the coming year to prepare in somewhat full outline a course suitable for normal school, college and university use for a class meeting at least two periods a week for not less than one-half year.

2. That the association reaffirm its belief in the importance of such courses in universities, colleges and normal schools, and urge upon the authorities of

these institutions the speedy introduction of such courses.

3. That the association recommend, in view of the impossibility at present of obtaining such instruction in the normal schools and colleges of the state, that individual libraries endeavor to make arrangement whenever possible, with the boards of education of their towns and cities, whereby some special teacher shall receive training in this work in the local library with a view to the immediate introduction of such instruction in the school system of the state.

In his delightful address whose tone was indicated by the title of "Much love and some knowledge of books," Mr Legler, president of the A. L. A., viewed collections of books from the standpoint of the individual rather than community ownership. He was enabled thus to indicate the allurements that come from perfect freedom of choice in the reading of many books and in the treasured possession of a few. He pointed out likewise the interest that accrues to the owner of a shelf full of books from a study of them collectively, not merely as literature but as representatives of types of books whose relationship might be traced by means of their physical characteristics as well as their intellectual qualities.

On Wednesday evening, Dr Alexander Johnson, secretary of the National Conference of charities and corrections, discussed "Place of a public library in a modern community," very inspiringly. Taking up first the library as a part of the general educational system, he emphasized its importance and dignity. The work of a library should be directed toward five ends: first, that of general education, supplementing the work of the school, and taking its place often in the case of the young wage earner; second, specialized education, where technical works beyond the individual purse should be provided for the workman; third, the reference library department; fourth, recreation, where books should be provided for all classes of readers, without insisting upon too high a literary standard for fiction; and

fifth, general culture, the goal toward which the other aims tend, yet for which they are not to be sacrificed.

At the final session Thursday morning, the question of A. L. A. affiliation was taken up, and an amendment is to be voted upon at the next meeting, by which the necessary dues can be paid from the treasury.

The following officers for the coming year were elected: President, Mary E. Downey; first vice-president, W. F. Seewall; second vice-president, H. S. Hirshberg; third vice-president, Corinne A. Metz; secretary, Lyle Harter; treasurer, Mirnah G. Blair.

After the business meeting J. H. Newman, State librarian, addressed the convention, and expressed his desire to be of service to the libraries of the state. Miss Mercer of the Mansfield library invited the association to hold its next meeting in Mansfield.

Mrs Eliza Rankin, Newark, told of the co-operation of clubs in the organization and support of libraries, and in the preparation of some standard study outlines. Two outlines were received, "The drama of today," and "English lyric poetry," for which bibliographies have been worked out. The members of the association were particularly interested in the Newark library, which has grown under the care of the woman's clubs, with little help from the city, and prospered from the enthusiastic devotion of Mrs Rankin.

The convention adjourned, leaving fresh inspiration and friendly memories.

LOUISA K. FAST, Sec.

#### Library Meetings

**Chicago.**—The Chicago library club met in Chicago public library Thursday, Nov. 14, in its regular monthly meeting. At the short business session some dozen names were received and voted acceptable for membership. An audience of about 250 was present to hear Dr A. E. Bostwick, librarian of St. Louis public library, who delivered a splendid address on "The art of re-reading."

Dr Bostwick defined art as the applica-

tion of skill and taste to production according to personal emotion as well as to aesthetic principles. He pointed out the difference between mechanical productions, such as photography, and the production of a work of art, such as a great painting. In referring to books and other written messages, he pointed out the difference in the messages they carried. A bit of information is received without feeling; a message of joy, pleasure, pain, sorrow, anything that touches emotion produces an effect that leaves a lasting impression. These are the things that mark the personal likes and dislikes in books and should govern the acquisition of the personal library. Every book in such a collection should bear its personal message which never changes. The reader may change and therefore receive a different message or an enlarged one from each reading, but the author, once committed to writing, bears the same message as at first, which may be read and re-read and read again. Three well-thumbed books of the attic form a library in the true sense of the word more than the priceless collections made by our financiers.

A public library should induce its readers to own their particular friends among books, which may be taken down for a moment or an hour at any time and which never fail to meet the need of the moment in which they are sought.

**Connecticut.**—The fall meeting of the Connecticut library association was held in Middlefield, October 16. The meeting was wholly one of demonstration for librarians of small libraries.

Binding received special attention, and Mr Wooding of the Bristol public library and Miss Robertson of the Hartford public library showed easy and inexpensive ways of re-casing books.

The relation of the town library and patriotic societies was a very natural one for the Connecticut meeting.

Miss Goddard of Wallingford spoke of distribution of copies of "Guida" for Italian emigrants, and also a postal card campaign that was made to bring the Italians into the library.

W. K. Stetson of the Public library, New Haven, reported on the A. L. A. meeting at Ottawa, and pointed out that the most important emphasis there was laid on personality and dealing with the public as individuals; the recognition of the impossibility of capitulating the spiritual results of books, and the importance of keeping the community informed of the existence and many uses of the public library.

**Indiana.**—The twenty-first annual meeting of the Indiana library association at Terre Haute, October 17-19 was well attended, there being about 75 present. The opening session on Thursday evening was held in the State normal school rooms. Mr Cunningham, librarian of the normal school and one of the charter members of the I. L. A., gave the address of welcome to which Mr D. C. Brown, president of the association for the year, responded. In Mr Brown's address which followed on "Libraries and democracy," he struck the keynote of the meeting by emphasizing the importance of libraries getting in close touch with "the crowd," and so becoming an educative force. He said in part:

"The library is aristocratic in the sense of being a place for the best things. However, the library has a duty of teaching persons to know and love the books of the world. The books of the world belong to the world and must permeate the minds of the people. Nothing should be more democratic than books and libraries. The library ought to be the school of citizens. Here is where the library can do its greatest good; here is the best tool of democracy. The crowd must be taught by tools supplied and maintained by itself. The library that has not led on to deep study and work has in a measure failed in its work. The public library should be the common level of the community; the church is restricted, the school is restricted—not so the library. Books and librarians are a part of democracy. The librarian should be an inspirer to do things—to love knowledge, research and power; the librarian is the teacher of the crowd."

Mr Brown's address was followed by an illustrated lecture on "The library movement," by Theodore W. Koch, librarian at the University of Michigan. Mr Koch showed some excellent views of libraries in Europe and university libraries in the United States, closing his lecture by tracing the spread of public libraries in the United States.

After the evening session those present adjourned to the library rooms, where they enjoyed a social hour.

Friday morning at the business session reports of committees were given. Mr Milam, chairman of the committee on District meetings, recommended an extension of the work beyond the discussion of technical problems. The socialization of the library—studying the needs of the community and as far as possible ministering to those needs—was emphasized.\*

The report of the committee on legislation was given by Mr Hepburn, chairman. Increased appropriations were urged for the use of the State library and the Public library commission, that they might extend their work. Other things recommended were: an amendment of the Township library law of 1911 permitting an incorporated town to levy a tax for securing library service from another library situated in the same township or in a neighboring town; that there should be a law explicitly authorizing library boards to expend not to exceed \$100 annually for the purpose of sending delegates to library or other educational meetings, that library funds be deposited in favor of the library board under the Public Depository law of the state, that any attempt to obtain state support for library schools under other supervision than that of the Public library commission be opposed as injudicious and contrary to the best interests of the library work of the state.

Mr Bailey, chairman of the committee on Qualifications of librarians, reported that legislation on this subject had been considered but had been found inadvis-

\*Mr. Milam's recommendations will appear shortly in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

able, so a motion was carried that the tentative report of last year stand as a permanent report (see PUBLIC LIBRARIES, May, 1912).

At this session Miss Ahern was made the first honorary member of the I. L. A. She was also commissioned to carry the greetings of the Indiana library association to the joint meeting of Illinois and Missouri library associations at St. Louis, October 24-26.

A round table on "Book selection and buying" was conducted in the afternoon by Miss McCollough of Evansville, and was most interesting and helpful. Annette Clark in leading a discussion on "The librarian's responsibility in selection," emphasized the fact that books should not represent the personal equation of the librarian or the book committee. The librarian must be able to judge of books for other people. She recommended the reading of "The place, the man and the book," by Miss Askew of the New Jersey public library commission.

"Editions of the standards" was the topic presented by Miss Hicks of Evansville. She gave four reasons for having good, attractive editions of standard fiction. They were: 1) To attract readers who otherwise would not read standards; 2) To give pleasure to the lover of good books who enjoys seeing his favorites in attractive forms; 3) To encourage the reading of standards by young people who so carefully avoid a book with gloomy binding, poor paper and small print; 4) To establish a taste for good books in young children. Miss Hicks had with her books of various standard editions with which she illustrated her remarks. She gave as points to be observed in buying standards: Is the edition unabridged? If the original is changed, who is responsible? Is the editor a person of authority?

Miss Gottlieb of Gary defined "Borderland fiction" as being on the border either between good and bad literature, or between the good and the bad morally.

Miss C. Scott of the commission introduced the topic "Selecting for special classes." She said that books in a library

should be of two general classes: real literature for culture, and books for the world's work. City officials and librarians are public servants. There should be kept at the library an up-to-date Who's Who and What's What in your city, and use should be made of all state publications. For list of papers given up to national and municipal problems see pamphlet "Social questions of today" which may be gotten at the State library for 10 cents. Miss Scott recommended also Imhoff's "Library and social movements," published by League of library commissions.

Other phases of book selection and buying discussed at this session were: How far is the library responsible for the standard of taste in the community? The book committee's responsibility in selection, Systematic class building, Popular copyrights, Juvenile books, Free material, Second-hand and clearance lists.

The report of the treasurer, Miss Peters, was heard with interest, and she was given a vote of thanks for her good work in increasing the membership of the association.

A visit to the Catholic school for girls, St. Mary's-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute, had been planned for Friday afternoon, but had to be given up on account of rain.

On Friday evening Matthew S. Dudgeon, secretary of the Wisconsin free library commission, gave his interesting and entertaining address on "Some phases of extension work."\* "Reading for country boys and girls" was the subject of an address by G. M. Frier of Purdue university. He presented the subject from the farmer's viewpoint, emphasizing the growing demand for literature on vocational training as it applies to the farmer. Agriculture in the schools makes a demand for literature among children. A list of 150 books (non-technical) on the business of farming, fruit-growing, soil improvement and animal husbandry was recommended, and

may be obtained by applying to Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind.

At the Saturday morning session the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Louis J. Bailey, Gary; vice-president, Ethel McCollough, Evansville; secretary, Julia Mason, Princeton; treasurer, Alice Stevens, Logansport.

A question box on Library administration was conducted by Mr Milam, and a round table on College library and reference problems by Mr Lindley of Earlham college library. In the latter section the subjects discussed were: Cooperation between the college libraries of Indiana; the care of pamphlets, and Departmental library problems. The majority of those present seemed to be in favor of inter-library loans, and to lessen the difficulty of knowing where to obtain desired material, it was decided that a committee obtain from each of the college libraries in the state a statement of the scope of the library (as detailed as possible) and that these be sent to other college libraries to be filed. W. M. Hepburn of Purdue university, Miss Keating of the Normal school library and Miss Venn of the State library constitute this committee. The consensus of opinion seemed to be against having departmental libraries because of the weak administration and scattering of library facilities which result.

All sessions excepting that of Thursday evening were held in the Emeline Fairbanks memorial library.

LOIS A. JOHNSTONE,  
Secretary.

Kentucky.—The sixth annual meeting of the Kentucky library association was held at Lawrenceburg, October 3-4.

The discussions were all on practical topics.

Judge Lyman Chalkley of the University of Kentucky gave the evening address on "Public library problems."

Mrs H. B. Ripy gave the history of the Lawrenceburg library.

The round table of library technicalities was held in the morning. Charging systems, advertising, book mending and state publications were discussed.

\*Mr Dudgeon's paper will appear shortly in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The afternoon session of October 4 was spent in a drive to Tyrone and a boat trip up the Kentucky river.

The following officers were elected: President, Florence Dillard, Lexington; first vice-president, Mrs Annie M. Spears, Covington; second vice-president, Jessica Hopkins, Paducah; secretary, Carrie Hunt, Lexington; treasurer, Anna F. Hubbach, Louisville; member-at-large, Mrs Mary Dowling Bond, Lawrenceburg.

FANNIE C. RAWSON.  
Secretary.

**Massachusetts.**—The Cape Cod library club held a meeting at Chatham, September 5-6. Hamilton Wright Mabie gave an inspiring address on "Books," which subject formed the general topic of discussion at the meeting.

Among the several who discussed the subject of use of books, story hours and other kindred topics was Louise J. Connolly of Newark, N. J.

The meeting was well attended and delightfully entertained by the trustees of the Eldridge library.

Officers elected for the year were: President, Thomas H. Soule, Hyannis; secretary, Alice M. Howard, Cotuit; treasurer, Florence O'Neil, Chatham.

**Missouri.**—The thirteenth annual meeting of the Missouri library association was held at St. Louis October 24-26, 1912. By invitation this meeting was held jointly with the Illinois library association. A full account of the joint sessions appears under the report from the Illinois library association.

Visiting librarians from other states, visiting trustees, members of the two state associations and members of the staff of the St. Louis public library made this joint meeting a large and enthusiastic gathering.

All the meetings were held in the new and beautiful St. Louis public library. Many visitors from other states came to the meeting in order to take advantage of the opportunity of seeing the St. Louis public library.

The business session of the Missouri library association was called to order

by President Paul Blackwelder on Thursday a. m. In his opening address Mr Blackwelder advocated augmenting the revenues of the association by a library membership and to establish a permanent fund to be spent later on some object which the association would consider worth while. He also advised the appointment of a committee to gather statistics and confer with trustees about sending paid delegates to the annual meeting.

The report of the treasurer for the past year showed receipts to be \$93.87 and expenditures \$87.

Miss Wagner, of the committee on Missouri bibliography, reported no progress because of lack of funds. Three suggestions for raising funds were made, namely: a subscription be raised, as urged by second-hand book dealers; an appropriation be asked from the state legislature, and the surplus in the treasury of the association be used for this purpose. The committee was continued.

A committee of three, H. O. Severance, Columbia; Nancy C. McLachlan, Hannibal; Ophelia Parrish, Kirksville, was appointed to prepare a report on paying the expenses of delegates to the annual meetings.

On Saturday a. m., Elizabeth B. Wales, secretary of the Missouri library commission, gave an interesting report on the work and growth of the commission. On motion by Mr C. E. Rush a committee of three was appointed to plan for institutional membership by all the libraries in Missouri.

Suitable resolutions were voted, expressing pleasure in appreciation of the joint meeting with Illinois library association, of the officers and staffs of the libraries of St. Louis, the hospitality of the hosts, the guests and speakers and other pertinent subjects.

The report of the committee on resolutions was read and approved.

The following officers were elected:

President, C. E. Rush, St. Joseph; vice-president, C. E. Miller, St. Louis; second vice-president Nancy McLachlan, Hannibal; secretary, Florence Whit-

tier, Columbia; treasurer, Lula M. Westcoat, St. Louis.

FLORENCE WHITTIER,  
Secretary M. L. A.

**New Jersey.**—The twenty-second annual meeting of the New Jersey library association was held at Orange free library October 16. There were 125 persons who attended the morning session and over 90 had luncheon served in the library.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected: President, Thomas Hatfield, Hoboken; vice-presidents, Harry Clemons, Princeton university library, and Louise Morris, Summit; treasurer, Mary G. Peters, Bayonne; secretary, Edna B. Pratt, New Jersey library commission.

After the business meeting, Mr Dana prefaced his introduction of Dr G. W. Shauffler, president of the New Jersey state board of education, by reviewing the educational conditions of the state and deplored certain phases of it.

Dr Shauffler mentioned some of the difficulties in the way of an entire realization of ideals in educational fields, referring to the amazing amount of ignorance of proper methods among laymen. He bespoke the aid of librarians, who, in their contact with parents, children and teachers, have large opportunity for great influence.

Mr Dana suggested the advisability of introducing library instruction into normal schools. Dr Shauffler said that not until librarians forced such a public demand could the suggestion be carried out.

Robert B. Spenser, of the Roxbury high school, criticized the library organization in New Jersey. He advocated putting all library control under the state board of education in referring to the inefficiency of most school libraries, their lack of financial support and proper supervision.

It was suggested that the libraries of the state make a move toward legislation, making reforms in the school library system and developing all county libraries possible.

A. M. Hulbert of the Park Ridge high-

school suggested that libraries carry on a campaign of publicity outside of library ranks, and that librarians might talk before bodies of teachers.

Dr Schauffler, Mr Spenser and Mr Hulbert promised to meet the teachers' institutes and principals' associations. They thought ignorance, rather than unwillingness, responsible for lack of cooperation between schools and libraries.

There was pointed out during the meeting the possibility of the New Jersey library commission doing more toward the development of school libraries than it is at present. Miss Askew explained that there is nothing in the law creating the commission which gives it a right to deal with school libraries, but the commission is willing to co-operate and would gladly welcome legislative action extending this line, providing there comes with it sufficient appropriation to handle the work creditably.

G. E. Robins, chaplain of the Rahway reformatory, spoke of the reading in that institution. The usual response to the question addressed to the boys as to what their reading has been, is, newspapers and magazines. No instance is recorded of anyone admitted to the reformatory having been a user of a public library.

A motion to appoint a committee to investigate the subject of school libraries in rural communities, to report at the meeting next March at Atlantic City, was carried.

A constitutional amendment making mandatory but one annual meeting of the New Jersey library association was carried. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the executive committee. The one meeting will be held at the time of the joint meeting at Atlantic City.

An invitation was received and accepted from the New York library club for the association to attend the November meeting of that club each year, the New Jersey association meeting the expense of the announcement to its own members.

In the afternoon visits of inspection were made to the various libraries of the Oranges, and tea was served in the Orange library from four to six.

The meeting was voted an entire success from every standpoint.

EDNA B. PRATT, Sec.

**New York.**—A meeting of the Long Island library club was held October 17 at the Bedford branch of the Brooklyn public library. The president, Miss Rathbone, director of the Pratt Institute library school, outlined the nature of the program for the year, which will include discussions on modern movements in the several fields of knowledge.

Robert Gilbert Welsh, dramatic editor of the *New York Evening Telegram*, read a paper on "Modern drama, its history and literature." Mr Welsh discussed the influence and type of dramatists from Ibsen to Shelton and showed that the "philosophy which is inducing men to set their faces joyfully and courageously toward the future is voiced in the theatre by widely different dramatists. You can catch its note in Ibsen's 'Master builder' and in Bernard Shaw's 'Man and superman.'" But he questioned whether the vital force in modern drama that has made these plays purposeful, invigorating and masterful, was instilling a new spirit into the present day's tardy social awakening. Following Mr Welsh, Miss Burgess, of the Brooklyn public library, and Miss Wheelock, of the Pratt Institute free library, told what their observations had shown regarding the popularity of the works of modern dramatists among the reading public. The plays of Ibsen, Hauptmann, Maeterlinck and Sudermann among others seem to be in constant demand, although Shakespeare and Goethe are by no means forgotten.

Henry E. Legler, president of the A. L. A., was present and addressed the club in the interests of the A. L. A., pointing out its usefulness to the profession.

The next meeting will be held the first Thursday in December, when Prof Henry Fairchild Osborn, president of the American museum of natural history, will address the club on "Recent developments in the theory of evolution."

ROBERT L. SMITH,  
Secretary.

**Pennsylvania.**—The first meeting of the Pennsylvania library club for the winter of 1912-1913 was held at the H. Josephine Widener branch of Free library of Philadelphia, on Monday evening, November 11, 1912. The president, Ernest Spofford, of the Historical society of Pennsylvania, made a short address of welcome, and after the usual routine of business had been disposed of, introduced the speaker of the evening, George Maurice Abbot, librarian and treasurer of the Library Company, of Philadelphia, who read a paper entitled "A short history of the Library Company of Philadelphia" to a large audience of librarians, many from nearby cities and towns.

#### The Library Company of Philadelphia

Mr Abbot said that the beginning of the Library Company of Philadelphia was largely owing to the "Junto," a club formed by Benjamin Franklin for literary and scientific discussion, the reading of original essays, etc., and called "A club of mutual improvement." Franklin in his autobiography says he "started his first project of a public nature by having the great scrivener Brockden draw up proposals for a subscription library." "Some 50 subscribers were procured at 50 shillings each, and 10 shillings a year for 50 years, the term the company was to continue. A charter was afterwards obtained, the company having been increased to 100, and this was the mother of all the North American subscription libraries, now so numerous." The "Instrument of Association" was dated July 1, 1731. Among the original shareholders were Thomas Hopkinson, father of Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This share was handed down four generations and is now the property of Christ Church. The third signer was Benjamin Franklin, whose share is now owned by Thomas Henson Bache. "Other original shares are still owned by the descendants of those who first signed the articles of association."

The first meeting of the board of directors was held November 8, 1731, at the home of Nicholas Scull. In 1732,

the first list of books was ordered, and many of these books are still in the library. The librarian was "to permit any civil gentleman to peruse the books of the library in the library room, but shall not lend to, or suffer to be taken out of the library by any person who is not a subscribing member, any of the said books. Mr James Logan only excepted."

In 1769, the Union library was merged in the Library Company. In 1774 and 1791, there were meetings of Congress in Philadelphia, and the members during those periods were permitted to use the library. Afterwards "in obedience to the commands of the President of the United States," a letter of thanks was received, signed "Tobias Lear, Secretary."

After the battle of Trenton and Princeton, 1777, a large number of sick soldiers were quartered in the library. "The books during that period were procured by applying at the house of the librarian upon a written request." The hours at which the library was open were from one o'clock until sunset.

In 1792 the library became the trustees for the Loganian library. At this time (1912) the Loganian collection contains some 15,000v., which are kept at the Ridgway branch. At the present time there are 237,677v. in the library and over 900 members. Mr Abbot said that much credit and praise is due to Lloyd P. Smith, who as librarian at the time of the Civil war carried the library through a most trying period. "Mr Smith managed, in spite of the hard times, to buy the best publications of the day, and I am often struck with the fact when I have had occasion to use books of that period that the librarian of the 'War time' had purchased wisely, under very unusual circumstances."

At the close of Mr Abbot's address, a rising vote of thanks was given, and the hope expressed that the paper might at some future time appear in print in its entirety.

The usual reception followed after the meeting.

The next meeting will be held January

13, 1913, at which time John Thomson of the Free Library of Philadelphia, will deliver an address on "Monumental brasses and windows."

JEAN E. GRAFFEN,  
Secretary.

**Pennsylvania.** — The twelfth annual meeting of the Keystone State library association was held at Galen Hall, Wernersville, Pa., October 17-19. The president, Susan L. Sherman, of Bradford, sounded the tocsin in a few introductory remarks bearing on the general subject of "The extension of the small library."

#### What people read

Arthur L. Bailey told of his investigation on what people read in Delaware. The results might be the same in the average rural community. The investigation was conducted thru the school children by giving them blanks to answer. What books have you read in the past three years and what books have you in your home? were among the questions asked. Ninety per cent. of the families replied. With few exceptions the reports were sincere. In one school 36 out of 44 pupils did not read other than textbooks and 26 families in this district had not read books, with one family absolutely barren of any literature in their home. There were few cases where the Bible was not found. "Sermons by the devil" was found in many homes, as tho it had had a "run" in Delaware at some time. One report very boastfully said their only book was a Sears-Roebuck catalog. In one county 40 per cent did not read anything, in another county 63 per cent read good papers and 69 per cent read agricultural papers, and finally in another county 80 per cent read their village or county paper. The proverbial subscription book was found in many instances. The paper showed a profound need of the missionary of the book, and Mr Bailey and his commission are actively engaged in supplying that need. Under the discussion it appeared that good work was being done in a department store at Pottsville; that the masses in Philadelphia read newspapers, which is probably no exception to the rule. A

very favorable report was made of the reading by the Germans at Hanover; at Beaver Falls, "The life of Washington," "Lincoln," "Black Beauty," "Beautiful Joe," Alcott, U. S. history and war books are in the lead. And they have a shibboleth that means, "Bring the other half to the library." The tone of the discussion indicated that the solution to the problem of "What the other half reads" was the use of the library thru the schools.

"The librarian outside of the library," was well presented for discussion by Sarah C. N. Bogle of Pittsburgh. It was "hinted" at Ottawa that the librarian should escape from his desk fifty per cent of the seven and one-half hours he is permitted to perspire for his lunch. The idea that efficiency is the librarian inside the library, while publicity is the librarian outside the library was faithfully emphasized. The successful librarian must be alert, sympathetic, and have genuine interest in his people, in fact he should be ideally human.

Agnes B. Kelso told about the interesting work being done at Manayunk, Philadelphia. The quarters here are so inadequate that the readers, mostly children, have to be admitted in relays. At Lock Haven, where there is an endowed county library, a branch is conducted in a country store where the surroundings are decidedly crude; the success proves that much can be accomplished in this way and at little expense. The work at Chester indicates what the librarian can do in a town where it is possible to know all the people. The school work in this case is exceptionally effective. All Scranton is divided into four parts; it, therefore, has to go to the people with its books thru the small branch library. At Phoenixville, like many other towns, the library utilizes the school building in conducting branch work. At Homestead over half of the circulation is in the branches or stations conducted by volunteer help. One hundred thousand of this circulation is handled by the teachers alone.

Mary L. Titcomb addressed the association on the work done by the county

library at Hagerstown, Md. It is safe to say that Miss Titcomb's library is the most successful county library in this country. The books are actually hauled to the door of the reader where he is urged to take all he wants, which seems to be the limit of aggression in library work.

R. P. Bliss commented on the Mt Rose library, it being the only county library in Pennsylvania.

Eleanor Carver of Sharon conducted a round table on small libraries.

Irene Hackett of New Castle said that the mechanical work in a small library should be systematized. The conservation of time is one of the essentials in a small library. Use standard methods for the sake of your successors. Teach the public to help you by teaching it to help itself. Have few rules and do not let these interfere with the success of the library.

Edith Patterson of Bloomsburg said it was a problem to keep a small library up to date. Be careful to tell readers when they have selected out-of-date books. "My small library, by the grace of God, has \$2,000 made thru card parties." Make use of the clippings from newspapers. What to clip and when to clip it is worth while in the small library.

Cordelia B. Hodge explained the traveling library system of the state library and how study clubs could avail themselves of the club libraries which are sent out at almost no cost to the clubs. Aid is given in making out club programs and when wanted sample club programs will be loaned.

"Making the local library more valuable" was elucidated by Sarah P. Bedford of West Chester.

Charlotte E. Evans of Erie spoke on "What to accept and what to refuse." Accept almost anything rather than offend anybody.

Isabel McC. Turner of Harrisburg in speaking of book buying from agents said that there was no plague more persistent than the book agent.

The illustrated lecture on Picturesque Pennsylvania by J. Horace McFarland

of Harrisburg was a most delightful feature.

#### Books and education

The educational section under the direction of Prof C. H. Bakeless began its deliberations by a paper on school libraries by George H. Lamb of Brad-dock. The public library is a public educator, and as such is destined to travel the same road that all educational factors supported by public taxation have had to travel. The library will eventually be supported in the same generous spirit as the public schools. The bareness of books in the home is overcome, in a measure, by the library books in the schools. When the library co-operates with the school the eighth grade scholar has read about 50 good books. Otherwise the scholar has read in that time only a few school readers. It is an education for the teacher to give out the library books. It is at this time the scholar is reading to learn rather than learning to read. A test proved that a set of library books would be used each week. The scholars that read well make good. No danger of an overdose of good books. The children using library books in the schools are good advertisers. About one-third of school books wear out each year. They are not recorded the same as other library books, hence much time is saved to the librarian. Most school libraries are for the upper grades and especially the high school. The next will be a library generation.

In the discussion it was said that the school library was a workshop and, therefore, effective. The necessity of obtaining and retaining the good will of the teachers was emphasized. Having this, their co-operation is secured which is paramount. Lectures to the high schools on how to use the library were highly recommended.

Frank Grant Lewis of Chester read a paper on "Elements of efficiency in an academic library." He said it was an experience paper. In the college the faculty is the prime source of energy. In his case the librarian is subordinate to the teachers but should be on equal footing. The teacher knowing how to

use the library is rare. In the absence of a librarian the directors sold a set of the Ladies' Home Journal for old paper. Much of the college library is a collection of books rather than a working library. The analytical catalog is best for student use. There is need of systematic instruction for both student and teacher in the use of the library.

"An effective library course in a normal school," was the title of a paper read by Mabel McCarnes of Slippery Rock.

A library course to be effective must be practical, well emphasized by exercises, and must be obligatory.

When we consider the subject matter we must keep before us the three aims of such work: to give students a thoro acquaintance with the local library; to help them use and enjoy individual books; to train the school teachers so they may be an inspiration to the coming generation of readers.

Five normal schools have full courses in library work for teachers, four have brief courses, four are contemplating, and two are hopeless.

#### Officers

And finally the nominating committee closed the program with their report. President, Eliza M. Willard of Pittsburgh; vice-president, F. G. Lewis; treasurer, O. R. Howard Thompson; secretary, Elmira W. Pennypacker. Of the 121 people present from 56 libraries, 86 were library workers, 7 trustees and 27 visitors. It was said by many librarians to have been the largest meeting of the association ever held.

W. F. STEVENS, Secretary.

**Wisconsin.**—The Milwaukee library club held its first meeting of the season on the evening of November 8, in the lecture room of the Milwaukee public library. Jesse B. Davis, principal of the Central high school of Grand Rapids, Mich., gave an enlightening talk on "Vocational direction and the library." "Vocational direction as distinguished from "Vocational education" refers to the guidance of high school pupils in the selection of a life work and the correlation of their studies along this line; the object being not so

much the absolute determining of a pupil's career, as the prevention of his aimless drifting through school and into some misfit occupation. The talk was very suggestive in showing a field in which the librarian has infinite opportunity for helpfulness.

In accordance with a constitutional amendment adopted at the meeting in May, 1912, but three meetings a year will hereafter be held; one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. On these evenings the Public library will close at 8 o'clock.

LILLIAN M. CARTER,  
Secretary.

#### Public Libraries and Foreign Children

Just two more stories perhaps to point a moral, perhaps to adorn a tale. You may remember the one from Brooklyn, which tells how a mother came to the children's room and said: "I don't want Rebecca comes on the libr'y any more yet. Sooner she gets so proud she don't eat off the oil cloth any more. She wants she should have the table cloths, and it makes the washings too big yet." The other is from Mr Wright while he was still at St. Joseph (Mo.). "We bought a copy of *Vlastos, History of the U. S. in modern Greek*, and I loaned it to the boys in the Greek shoe shining shops, leaving it at each shop about one month. In a year about 36 boys have read the book. The other day when I went after the volume to take it to another shop, I had one of the little fellows, possibly 10 years old, and who has been in the United States only a few months, shine my shoes. I talked about the book. Of course he had read it. He was enthusiastic about the fighting. He said in his broken English, 'That last fight was great. We whipped 'em good, didn't we?' I wanted to know which fight he meant. 'The Spaniards in Cuba.' And I at once agreed that we whipped 'em all right. And I'm willing to wager that his son will be as loyal an American as any of the seventh or tenth generations. And that is what we are trying to do."

—Flora B. Roberts in address before Wisconsin library association.

#### Library Schools

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh  
Training school for children's librarians

On October 25, 1912, the Training school class matriculated at the University of Pittsburgh for the course in Games and Plays given by Miss Corbin of the Pittsburgh Playground association.

The Training school students are offered practice work in the reference department this year under the direction of a reference assistant.

On November 13, George B. Utley, secretary of the American library association, lectured on the "American library association."

Anna A. MacDonald, consulting librarian of the Pennsylvania Free library commission, lectured on "Commission work in Pennsylvania," on November 15.

The class of 1914 has organized and elected the following officers:

President, H. Marjorie Beal; vice-president, Edith C. C. Balderston; secretary, Anna M. Anderson; treasurer, Martha E. English.

#### Drexel institute

Graduate notes

Caroline D. Flanner, '10, has resigned her position as cataloger in the Wistar institute, Philadelphia, to accept an appointment in the Documents office, Washington, D. C.

Ida S. Wolf, '09, has been appointed cataloger in the library of the Iowa State teachers' college, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

CORINNE BACON,  
Director.

#### New York public library

Since the last report the juniors have had the pleasure of hearing Henry E. Legler on the "Affiliations possible to the large city library," and of meeting him and Caroline E. Burnite at a school reception.

Miss Burnite gave two lectures to the seniors taking the course for children's librarians, on the "Furnishing and decorating of the children's room," and on "Extension work with children." Mabel R. Haines, now connected with the Children's Aid Society, has spoken to them on

"Child immigration," and they have spent a morning at Ellis Island, witnessing the reception and handling of immigrants.

The students of the administration course have had two talks from Mr Lockwood, bursar of the N. Y. P. L., on the financial statement and the budget of a library, and the students themselves have prepared both, as well as handed in an imaginary annual report for criticism.

This class and the one in advanced cataloging have had a morning of visits to the Library Bureau, Art Metal Construction Co., Yawman & Erbe, Globe-Wernicke Co., looking at library furniture and supplies.

The juniors have been sent to the printery and the Tapley bindery in two sections of some 26 persons each (including some partial students), in order to make the visit more profitable. The Tapley bindery very courteously invited both parties of visitors to luncheon, under the auspices of its welfare department.

Junior lectures for the coming month are scheduled as follows:

Herman Rosenthal (N. Y. P. L.), Golden age of Russian literature.

Dr. C. C. Williamson (N. Y. P. L.), Literature of economics, and of sociology. (Two hours will be given to each lecture, with an intermission of ten minutes, since the lecture is to outline the field of the subject as well as give its literature).

C. G. Leland (Board of Education), The New York public school system.

W. P. Trent (Columbia University), Daniel Defoe.

Alice Stevens (Brooklyn Girls' high school), Making history interesting.

Merle St. C. Wright (N. Y. C.), Poetry of the present and future.

Miss L. E. Stearns (Wisconsin library commission), Some western phases of library work, and the work of the Wisconsin library commission. (Two lectures).

Seniors have lectures scheduled (in chronological order) as follows:

2 Albert Shiels (New York Public schools), The public school curriculum, and New York night schools and work with adults. (Two lectures).

2 J. H. Fedeler (N. Y. P. L.), Heating, lighting, and ventilating of libraries.

1 Ruth S. Ganniss (Grolier Club library), What makes old books interesting.

1 Henrietta Bartlett (New York City), The study of bibliography.

3 Anna C. Tyler (N. Y. P. L.), History and theory of story-telling.

1 Sarah H. Harlow (Botanical Gardens library), Literature of botany.

2 W. Dawson-Johnston (Columbia University), College library administration.

3 Mrs Mary K. Simkovich (University Settlement), Life of the city child.

1 Literature of astronomy.

2 F. C. Hicks (Columbia University), Newspaper publicity for libraries.

3 Anna C. Tyler (N. Y. P. L.), Picture bulletins.

3 Annie C. Moore (N. Y. P. L.), Continuation of lectures on children's books.

1 For students of advanced cataloging and reference.

2 For students of administration.

3 For children's librarians.

MARY W. PLUMMER.  
Principal.

#### New York state library

Mrs Julia S. Harron, '05, is temporarily assisting Miss Eastwood in the Selection of Books course.

Class organizations for the year are:

Class of 1913: President, Mary P. Parsons; vice-president, J. Howard Dice; secretary-treasurer, Raymond L. Walkley.

Class of 1914: President, Rollin Alger Sawyer, jr.; vice-president, Bessie B. Scripture; secretary-treasurer, Mabel Clark.

The senior class gave a hallowe'en party to the faculty and the junior class on the evening of November 2. Mr and Mrs Wyer gave their usual reception to the school on the evening of October 4. The faculty and school were the guests of Mr and Mrs Walter on the afternoon of election day, Nov. 5.

The following lectures have been given by visiting lecturers:

Oct. 14 - 15, Henry E. Legler, librarian of the Chicago public library and president of the A. L. A. Two lectures on the Chicago public library and its work.

Nov. 6, George B. Utley, A. L. A. secretary, The American library association.

Two class gifts have come to the school since the last PUBLIC LIBRARIES letter. The class of 1910 has given \$40 and 1912, \$30, to be used for such equipment as the faculty desires. These gifts will probably be used for a tea service and the necessary accompaniments for

informal social affairs in which the school is interested.

F. K. WALTER.

**Pratt institute**

The annual reception of the Graduates' association to the incoming class took place October 31. There were 84 graduates present and 19 classes were represented, only 1897, 1901 and 1905 were entirely absent.

A map has recently been prepared showing the geographical distribution of the 285 graduates of the school who are in active library work. There are 113 in Greater New York, 19 in New England, 14 in New York State, 14 in New Jersey, 16 in Pennsylvania, 15 in the southern states, 62 in the middle west (of which 16 are in Ohio), 25 on the Pacific coast, 4 in Canada, 3 in Europe and 1 special student in China.

The class had the privilege of hearing a talk on "Librarianship as a profession," which Mr Legler made at the October meeting of the Long Island library club, and also an informal talk from him on the extension work of the Chicago public library.

The first of the regular course of lectures was given by Dr Frank P. Hill, of the Brooklyn public library, on Tuesday afternoon, November 12.

**Alumni notes**

The marriage of Kathrine Rutherford, '06, until recently assistant in the Osterhout library, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., has been recently announced to George Cady of Chicago.

Nellie J. Shields, class of 1911, was married in Pittsburgh on September 27 to Montgomery Sleeth.

Katharine P. Ferris, '12, has been made acting head of the circulating department of the Mt. Vernon (N. Y.) public library.

Elizabeth Forgeus, '12, has been appointed temporary assistant in the Flushing branch of the Queens Borough public library.

**JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,**  
Vice-director.

**Simmons college**

On October 30, Simmons college celebrated its tenth anniversary. During that

time the college has grown from 149 to 935 students.

The courses of study are conducted as hitherto, with the exception of the course in Continental literature, which is this year conducted by the instructors of the several language departments.

**Alumnae note.**

Twenty of the members of the class of 1912 have joined the staffs of various libraries. Seventeen are in eastern libraries, and three are placed in the central states—Catherine Cummins in the Cleveland public library, Alice Charlton in the library of the University of Minnesota, and Alice G. Stevens in the library of the Ohio state university.

MARY E. ROBBINS.

**Syracuse university**

Members of the senior class are conducting the story hour at the Solvay public library.

This year no recitations have been scheduled for Saturdays in order to keep the day free for visits to near by libraries, printing establishments and other institutions of special interest to library workers. Visits have been made thus far to the Syracuse public library central building and its North side branch.

The class had two interesting and instructive talks from active workers in the field. On September 23, Miss Medlicott, reference librarian of the City library of Springfield, Mass., spoke on reference work in general and the Springfield city library. On September 27, Miss Bullock, chief loan-librarian of the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, addressed the school on the organization and work of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

**Graduate notes**

Marion H. Wells, '12, has resigned from the New York public library, to become children's assistant in the Saratoga branch of the Brooklyn public library.

Nina L. Compton, '06, is supplying in the Seymour library, Auburn, N. Y.

MARY J. SIBLEY,  
Director.

**Western Reserve university**

The school was well represented at the meeting of the Ohio library association, held in Newark, October 21-24. A reunion and luncheon of the alumni were held Tuesday, with at least one member present from each class. Mr Brett, Miss Eastman, Miss Burnite, Miss Smith, Mr Strong, and Professor Root represented the faculty, and Mr Legler was the guest of the occasion.

On November 12, the faculty gave their annual reception for the class of 1913. A large number of alumni and friends were present.

**Alumni notes**

Edith C. Lawrence, '09, cataloger in the California state library, has resigned her position to accept the position of cataloger in the libraries of the University of Chicago.

Mabel M. Hawthorne, '11, assistant in the University of Washington library, has resigned her position to accept a similar position in the Oahu college library of Honolulu.

Elizabeth Richards, '11, assistant in the cataloging and reference department of the Cincinnati public library, has resigned her position to accept the position of cataloger in the Association library of Honolulu.

Eva Morris, '12, has been appointed an assistant in the Stations department of the Cleveland public library.

**JULIA M. WHITTLESEY,**  
Director.

**Summer school**

Instruction in library methods was offered at the summer school of the Southern university of Tennessee during the 1912 session. There were 13 students enrolled, four being from outside Tennessee.

Instruction was given by Miss Fay and Miss Eaton of the University library, with the co-operation of the Tennessee library commission, and lectures were given by President Baskette, Mrs Kelly, secretary, and Miss Skeffington, state librarian. Two courses were given, one for teachers as well as librarians, and the second, for small school librarians.

**News from the Field****East**

A gift of \$50,000 to the Redwood library in Newport, R. I., is made by the will of Mrs Mary E. W. Perry.

J. P. Morgan has given Trinity college, Hartford, \$200,000 for a library and administration building.

Julia L. Crocker, formerly connected with the Free library in Baintree, Mass., and recently of the Public library of Calais, Me., has been elected librarian of the Public library of Stoneham, Mass. Miss Crocker succeeds Mrs H. M. Boyce, who resigned October 1 after 30 years of service.

Albert Carlos Bates, librarian of the Connecticut Historical society, and Alice Morgan Crocker, head cataloger, and for the year 1911-12 acting assistant librarian of the Hartford public library, were married in Hartford on October 19. Miss Crocker, after several years' experience in all departments of the library, took the Albany summer course in 1901.

The annual report of the Free library association, Springfield, Mass., records a circulation for the year of 585,412v., with 186,907v. on the shelves, exclusive of pamphlets, pictures and prints. There were 22,839 pictures circulated in the year.

The total distributing agencies number 314, including 280 class rooms in the public schools. General deposits have been made in clubs, stores, factories, institutions, etc. A large number of books in foreign languages have been added.

Formal instruction in the use of the library was given to visiting pupils from upper grades of the public schools.

Several rooms have been fitted up for public gatherings, both large and small. These are freely available for all suitable purposes, and are used by various organizations, scientific, philanthropic, educational, musical and even political.

Several financial gifts of importance were received.

**Central Atlantic**

The Avery library building, a gift of Samuel P. Avery of Hartford, to Colum-

bia university, New York City, was opened November 9. The building cost nearly \$500,000 and is one of the most complete of the Columbia groups.

The New York public library has an exhibition of engraved portraits of Washington, which will be on view during November-April in room 321 of the library.

The exhibition includes about 270 prints carefully selected. The show is practically limited to the rare portraits of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

#### Central

H. E. Southwell of Chicago has made a gift of \$10,000 toward a public library building in Fort Atkinson, Wis.

The Detroit public library board, which is erecting eight branch libraries out of the Carnegie fund, has named the largest and finest of them the Henry Munson Utley library.

Katherine Tappert, Pratt '10, has resigned the librarianship of the Public library at New Rochelle, N. Y., to take charge of the circulating department in the Public library at Davenport, Ia.

Stella L. Wiley, Pratt '07, librarian of the Stewart library, Grinnell, Iowa, has been appointed librarian of the Public library at Hibbing, Minn., succeeding Margaret Palmer, Pratt '05.

Winifred James of London, Eng., succeeds Lyda Coleman as librarian of the Allerton library at Monticello, Ill.

Miss Coleman, who has been in charge of the library since its organization in 1897, is to be in Decatur, Ill.

Marie Minton, Wisconsin, '09, formerly librarian of Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, later librarian of Oskaloosa, Iowa, was married November 12 to Thomas James George of Monticello, Iowa.

Eliza Lamb, N. Y. State library school, '00-'02, has been appointed assistant in the catalog department of the University of Chicago library. Since November, 1910, Miss Lamb has been cataloging the library of the Coast artillery school at Fortress Monroe, Va.

The annual report of the Public library at Calumet, Mich., records circulation of books and magazines, 164,208; books on the shelves, 35,367; registration, 9,395; attendance in the reading room, 73,972; attendance at the story hour, 1,576; circulation of pictures, 10,710; of clippings, 3,154; of games, 1,368. The library has a stock of 10,962 pictures and 7,067 clippings.

Purd B. Wright, in response to the unanimous vote of the Library Board and moved by a petition signed by every member of the library staff, has accepted re-appointment as librarian of the Public library of Kansas City. Mr Wright's health is considerably improved and the prospect for effective work is also much improved.

The annual report of the Public library of Lansing, Mich., shows a circulation of 71,248v., with 6,323 card holders, and 22,066v. on the shelves; the per cent of population registered as borrowers is 20.2; total receipts, \$8,916; total expenditures, \$6,521.

Helen T. Kelley, after 26 years of service in the Detroit public library, for 16 years of which she has been chief of the circulation department, has resigned, on account of ill health. Helen M. Ward, librarian of the Scripps branch, has been appointed her successor.

The annual report of the Public library of Peoria, Illinois, records a circulation of 213,351v., with 113,076v. on the shelves, and 9,470 card-holders. The record shows a falling off, both in membership and in circulation. The specially strong work of the year has been done in the reference department.

Ella Louise Smith of Van Wert has been appointed organizer of the Ohio state library, to succeed Mary E. Downey. Daisy May Smith of Piqua has been placed in charge of the traveling libraries department, successor to Mrs C. B. Galbreath.

Henry M. Utley, for upwards of 27 years librarian of the Detroit public library, has asked to be relieved from active management of the library. He has

been made librarian emeritus and the duties of librarian have been assigned to Adam Strohm, who came to the library from Trenton, N. J., just one year before.

The library of the University of Minnesota has received a bound volume of French newspapers, printed in Paris during the French revolution, newspapers which represented the new regime in France during the Reign of Terror, giving a full account of the political conflict. They cover the period of 1790-1792.

Beloit College, Wis., has received a collection of valuable oil paintings, engravings and other art objects, together with an art library, including more than 2,000 lantern slides. There are something over 2,500v., including a large number of folios and quartos in costly paintings and small exquisitely bound books filled with Chinese and Japanese paintings, bound in silk and rice paper.

Margaret Brown, favorably known as the efficient head of the state traveling library system of Iowa for the past ten years, has offered her resignation to the Iowa library commission. The members of the Commission consider Miss Brown's constructive work so valuable that they are reluctant to accept her resignation, which was presented on account of ill health. It is necessary for Miss Brown to have a rest and relief from responsibility. Therefore the Commission voted to grant her an indefinite leave of absence, in the hope that she may be able to return to the work later.

The thirty-fourth annual report of the Milwaukee public library is one of considerable progress. Among the various things taken up have been the classification of the service, the establishment of a municipal reference library, the opening of a new branch, with appropriations for two new branch buildings, and much improvement in the internal arrangements. The bindery has been moved from a cheerless room, without sunshine, into dry roomy quarters with plenty of sunshine. An assembly room, with comfortable seats, has been provided on the

third floor. Clubs and societies, pursuing scientific and literary work, will be given the use of the room.

The number of books in the library is 237,736; total circulation, 1,366,991; cards in use, 53,739.

The annual report of Dr R. G. Thwaites, superintendent of the Wisconsin historical society library, paid a tribute to the late Isaac S. Bradley, assistant superintendent.

The library accession of the year was 10,981 titles, which was about the average for the past decade. The library now contains 352,187 titles (books and pamphlets).

The report calls attention to the inadequate number of assistants in the library, owing to lack of funds.

The recent publications of the society included an enlarged edition of the newspaper catalog, which shows that the library possesses 22,000 bound volumes of newspaper files.

#### South

L. W. Josselyn, for the past two years librarian of the University Club of Chicago, has resigned to become librarian of the Public library at Jacksonville, Fla.

George T. Settle has been elected librarian of the Louisville free public library to succeed William F. Yust, resigned. Mr Settle has been head of the Order and accession department in this library since its organization in 1905 and acting assistant librarian since Mr Yust's resignation in April 1912. For eighteen years previous to that time he was with John P. Morton & Co. For 12 years of this time he was at the head of the book department and buyer.

Maud M. Pugsley, for several years past librarian of Public library, Little Rock, Ark., has resigned that position to take up reference work in the Public library, Newark, N. J. Miss Pugsley was formerly librarian at Wheaton, Ill., and later reference librarian at the Art institute, Chicago. She organized the Public library at Little Rock, and leaves it now with nearly 10,000v. in active circulation.

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She called a meeting in Little Rock for the organization of a state library association for Arkansas two years ago, but while the first meeting was interesting, it also showed the time had not come for a state association. There is no general library law in Arkansas under which libraries can be organized and there are but three libraries that are free public libraries.

Miss Pugsley has done much good work in trying to arouse public interest in library service in Arkansas and her going will be a distinct loss to the educational forces of the state.

#### West

The eighth annual report of the Public library of South Omaha records an increase in circulation which amounted to one and two-thirds books per capita for every inhabitant of the city. One out of every 10 of the entire population is a borrower, and 42 per cent of the entire circulation is among the children. There are 2,736 cards in force, exclusive of 173 special cards for the Bohemian traveling libraries. The circulation last year was 43,348, with 8,876v. on the shelves.

The Public library of Denver, through its library board and the librarian, Mr Hadley, entered largely into a recent campaign in Denver to prevent the placing of the library under the management of the school board. After a very stirring campaign, the result was an overwhelming defeat for the proposed amendment.

Another agitation has begun for the commission form of government. Three or four different plans are suggested, and backed by as many groups of citizens.

It makes strenuous times in library circles.

Margaret O'Brien, for many years assistant-librarian of the Public library of Omaha, has resigned after 28 years of service. The board did not accept Miss O'Brien's resignation, but gave her an indefinite leave of absence. They also presented her with a check of \$1,600 in recognition of her past service and a set

of appropriate resolutions. The Omaha Public library has no pension system.

Miss O'Brien intends to open a book store, probably at Kent, Wash., and with a small farm near the place, she expects to start on a new career as interesting as her former one.

#### Pacific coast

The annual report of the Free library, Oakland, Cal., for the year ending June 30, 1912, shows an increase in circulation of 18.9 per cent over the previous year; the new total is 481,285. The cardholders number 49,417 and the books 84,-834v. A municipal reference department has been added, which will be housed in the new city hall, now under construction. A telephone reference service has also been established. Two new city branches, Melrose and Piedmont avenue, were opened, making 10 in all, beside the 12 rural branches throughout Alameda County and six deposit stations. The public museum, also under charge of the library directors, added 2,617 specimens during the year, making 24,298 in all; 44,939 visitors were recorded. A public art gallery has been assured by providing space for it in the new municipal auditorium, now building at a cost of \$500,000.

The people of San Francisco, in the recent election, voted to accept the gift of \$750,000 from Mr. Carnegie for library buildings. The board will enlarge the sum so that a million dollar library building at the Civic Center will be possible.

The new building of the Lane medical library of the Leland Stanford Jr. university was dedicated Sunday, November 3, in San Francisco.

Rebecca S. McNair, N. Y. State library school, '11-'12, has been appointed assistant librarian of the High-School library, Pasadena, Cal.

#### Canada

The Public library of Toronto has issued a picture post-card with an exterior view of the Reference library on one side and on the reverse, a list of the 10 branches and their location. Ten facts

about them give "Inspiring statistics of the opportunities offered." The sentiment, "An endowment of intellectual opportunity and profitable recreation," across the top, and under the title, "The public libraries of Toronto," tells the story of the institution.

#### Foreign

Dr G. K. Fortescue, keeper of the printed books in the British Museum, died October 25. Dr Fortescue was to have retired from the library on October 30 after 42 years of service.

Dr Fortescue succeeded Dr Garnett in 1896 as keeper of the books.

During his 42 years of service in various positions in the library, 2,000,000 books have been added to the stock, which now reaches between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000.

The report of the Public library of Victoria at Melbourne records the number of volumes in the library, 277,046. The re-classification of the library, in accordance with the decimal system, is nearing completion. The number of borrowers in the lending department of the library was 926, and the total number of volumes lent was 158,871; volumes in this department, 28,835. The number of volumes lent through the traveling libraries, 9,562.

The government Bureau of Education in Argentine Republic has issued an order to establish 500 public libraries in the various provinces in that country.

The libraries are to be placed provisionally in charge of local committees, consisting of the principal of the national school of the respective district, president of the municipality, and other influential local persons, in each case chosen by the president of the National committee on public libraries. For the time being, the libraries will be located in school houses, until the committee can find more appropriate quarters. They are established chiefly in towns of above 2,000 inhabitants, not possessing public libraries.

Each library has cost the national treasury \$500 to start it. Local funds

and local interests will provide further maintenance.

#### Position Wanted

Young man—at present assistant librarian in library of 60,000 volumes—three years' experience—desires position as librarian or assistant. Excellent references. Prominent in church, social, local, and club life. L. B., 37 S. Wabash av. Chicago.

Considerable discussion arose over the question of printing extra copies of current issues on a better grade of paper, and the conclusion arrived at was that there was no practical objection to it, and that it could be done without very much extra cost of time, labor or paper.

The conference developed the fact that there was another drawback to the preservation of newspapers, namely, the poor quality of ink, and that nothing would be gained by using the better quality of paper unless a better quality of ink was used.

So far as the committee was advised the first and only newspaper in the country to print extra copies on better paper was and is The Red Wing (Minn.) Republican, which furnishes copies of its publication to the State historical society for filing purposes.

It was decided that the subject was of sufficient interest and importance to warrant further investigation and the conference adjourned to meet in December.—*From Report of A. P. A.*

Mr Chivers suggested that the newspapers for filing be not allowed in the reading room, but that they be set aside on the morning of publication, kept from the light and air, with a weight upon them, and the volume bound directly it was complete. Then if the edges of the volume were frayed out, and a solution of cellulite, which is cheap and practical to use in this way, should be painted upon the edges, the newspaper file would last for a great number of years.—*A. L. A. Report.*

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